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Illinois

Illinois Towns

Lincoln

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Executive Mansion,

Washington, June 3, 1864.

My Dear Sir

The President directs me to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 26th May, containing the collector's receipt for his last year's tax, and to thank you for your kind thoughtfulness in the matter.

He sends you enclosed to pay for money expended interest &c.
\$2.00.

With the honor to be
Your Obedt Servt

John Hay

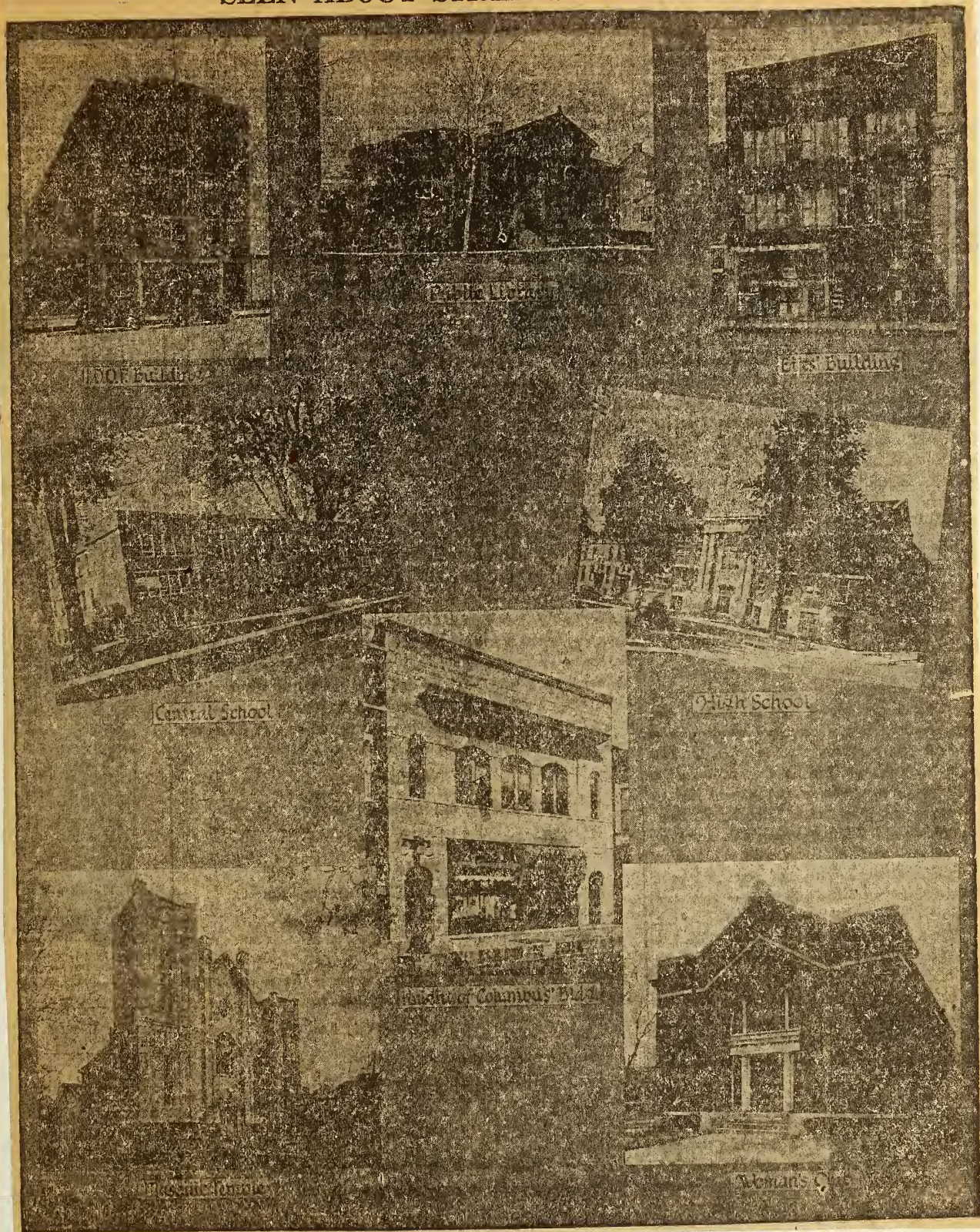
Wm. Stanley Esq.

**TOWN OF LINCOLN
WAS CHRISTENED
WITH MELON JUICE**

1926
LINCOLN, Ill., June 30.—(United Press.)—How Abraham Lincoln used the core of a watermelon which he squeezed in his hand until the water trickled through his fingers to the ground, to christen the town of Lincoln, Ill., during the sale of the first town lots in 1853, is related by John L. Stevens of St. Louis, former resident of Middletown, and a great admirer of the martyred president, who he knew intimately when he was but 13 years old. Stevens said the unique christening took place before Lincoln became famous, and that it was with reluctance that the men in charge asked Lincoln for the right to name the new town after him.

Lincoln 21

SEEN ABOUT STREETS OF LINCOLN



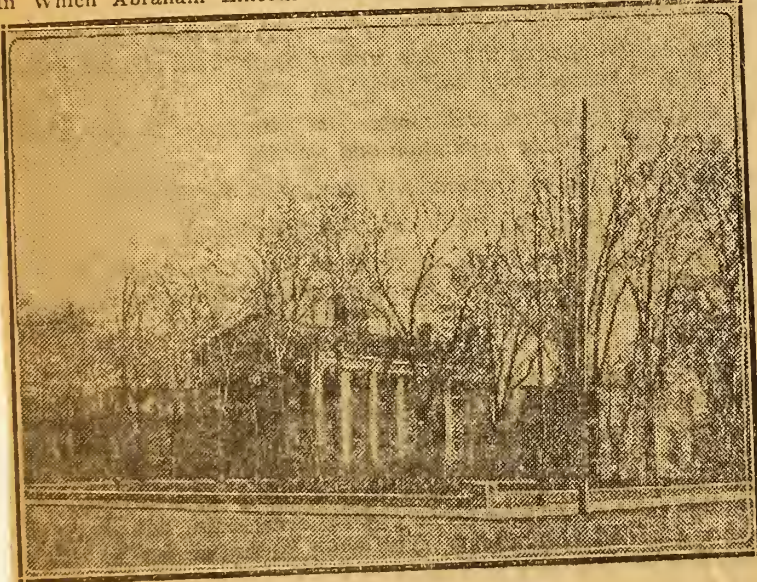
Ill. State Journal Springfield Ill. 3-31-1929

LEGAL BATTLEGROUND



MT. PULASKI COURTHOUSE.

In Which Abraham Lincoln Practiced Law; Built 1849; Still Standing



LINCOLN COURTHOUSE.

In Which Abraham Lincoln Practiced Law; Built 1857; Dismantled
in 1902

LINCOLN EVENING COURIER

LINCOLN, ILLINOIS

ALLYNE V. CARPENTER,
PUBLISHER

BRAINERD C. SNIDER,
MANAGING EDITOR

NEWS SERVICE: ASSOCIATED PRESS
MEMBER A. B. C.

NATIONAL ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES:
SCHEERER, INC.

NEW YORK OFFICE: 415 LEXINGTON AVENUE
CHICAGO OFFICE: 35 E. WACKER DRIVE

September 9, 1929.

Mr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Lincoln Lore
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Sir:

We have been very much interested in your Lincoln Lore sheets and have kept all of those that have come to our attention, Our own town being very sentimentally and historically associated with Lincoln, it being the only town named after him before he was recognized by the outside world in any sense.

Among the land marks has been an old court house where Abraham Lincoln practiced law in his early days. This building has been owned by private individuals and early in August the American Legion were planning a definite drive for the purchase of it, only to be awakened rudely by the news that the old court house had been purchased by Henry Ford with the intention of moving it to Dearborn, Michigan.

We and the majority of the residents of Lincoln feel that this court house should remain here and we are making endeavors to persuade Mr. Ford of this fact. To give you a more complete picture, we are sending you copies of the Courier containing articles pertaining to this purchase. If your medium is in any way able to help us take up the cudgels, we feel you will be doing a very excellent thing and it would be greatly appreciated not only by Lincoln, but by Illinois.

AVC:FE

Yours very truly,
LINCOLN EVENING COURIER

Allyne V. Carpenter
Publisher.

Lincoln Evening Courier

Lincoln Evening Courier

September 11, 1929

Mr. Allyne V. Carpenter
Lincoln Evening Courier
Lincoln, Illinois

My dear Mr. Carpenter:

Through associated press dispatches I have learned something of the outside viewpoint of the purchase which Henry Ford has made in your city.

I want to thank you for sending me such items as will allow me to get an inside view of the situation, and you may feel sure that I will read them with a great deal of interest.

Respectfully yours,

LAW:VL

Director,
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

LINCOLN EVENING COURIER

LINCOLN, ILLINOIS

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Sept. 13th, 1929

Mr. Louis A. Warren, Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Warren:

We are taking pleasure in sending you additional copies of the Courier pertaining to our Abraham Lincoln Courthouse.

We, of course have lost our Lincoln Shrine and have created the impression that we had been lacking in interest. However, as I believe I stated to you before, the very day that our American Legion representative had an appointment to negotiate for the purchase of the Courthouse Henry Ford arrived on the scene previous to his appointment and bought it.

Therefore, if we can do no more than now arouse other communities to the need of quick action or to bring about legislation to avoid the moving of landmarks and shrines of historical interest from one state to another, This not only for Illinois but all states, we shall not have lost in vain.

Thanking you for your interest, we are,

Very truly yours,
LINCOLN EVENING COURIER

Allyne V. Carpenter
Publisher.

September 17, 1929

Mr. Allene V. Carpenter, Publisher
Lincoln Evening Courier
Lincoln, Illinois

My dear Mr. Carpenter:

Please accept my thanks for the additional photograph and news items which you so kindly forwarded,

I sincerely trust that some steps may be taken to prevent the removal of historic signs, which mean so much more to the communities where they originally stood than they possibly can situated anywhere else.

It seems to me a proper sequel to this unfortunate occurrence might be the erecting of a bronze tablet to designate the place where the court house stood, and I am sure the American Legion would have no difficulty in sponsoring this effort.

Thanking you for your continued interest, I am

Yours very truly,

Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LAW:EB

Lincoln, Illinois

*The only City named for Abraham Lincoln before
he became President*

LOCATION AND HISTORY

The City of Lincoln, laid out in 1853, organized as a town and incorporated as a city in 1865, the judicial seat of Logan County, is within nine miles of the exact geographical center of the State of Illinois, in the center of Logan County, and surrounded by the greatest agricultural section of the United States. 156 miles from Chicago and 126 miles from St. Louis. The hub of a wheel for distribution with Bloomington, Springfield, Decatur and Peoria from thirty to forty-five miles distant.

POPULATION AND DESCRIPTION

The 1930 census gives Lincoln a population of 12,843, an 8% increase since 1920. It has an incorporated area of 4 square miles and an assessed valuation of \$7,460,000. The city has 55 miles of streets, 18 being paved and has 22 miles of sanitary and storm sewers.

TRANSPORTATION

Lincoln is served by the Chicago & Alton Ry., main line; the Illinois Central, two lines—Peoria-Evanville (Indiana Division) and Champaign-Havana (Springfield Division); the Illinois Traction System, electric, St. Louis-Peoria. This gives over-night service to Chicago and St. Louis markets and excellent connections for Indianapolis and Eastern cities. The Lincoln switching district is in rate point No. 110 and a rate breaking point for local shipments.

Lincoln is on National Highway No. 66, State Route Nos. 4, 120 and 121, and with improved roads connecting all towns in the County.

LIGHT, HEAT AND POWER

The city is supplied with electrical energy and gas by the Illinois Public Utility Company who have their division offices in Lincoln operating 34 communities. Their generating plant is located here with an adequate capacity to supply present and future needs. The rates compare favorably with much larger communities.

WATER

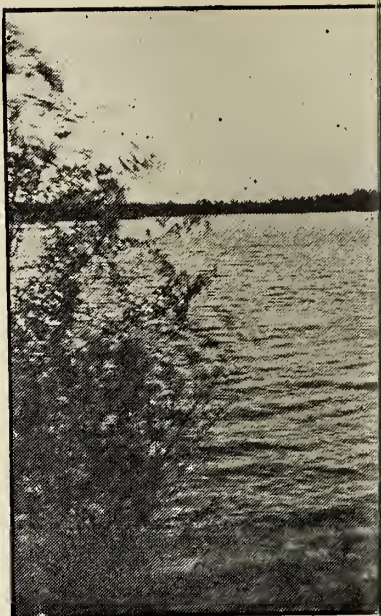
Great quantities of exceptionally good water are available from wells operated by the Illinois Public Utility Company. This water is of excellent quality and comes through infiltration galleries and is chlorinated. The average daily pumpage is 1,100,000 gallons, 100% metered, and a maximum daily pumpage of 1,650,000. There are 2675 services, 296 hydrants and 32½ miles of street mains. No record of water shortage and not affected by dry seasons.

The fire loss for Lincoln for 1928 was \$24,057, and for 1929 was \$59,850. Because of the efficient fire department and the very low loss the insurance rates have been decreased.

COMMUNICATION

Telephone service is supplied by the Illinois Commercial Telephone Company who operate 11 exchanges from the Lincoln headquarters and have approximate-

Partial View
of
LINCOLN LAKES
Spring-fed
and covering
125 acres.



ly 3,000 stations in the city and adjacent rural district. Long distance connections and service to all points is given.

The Western Union Telegraph Company has an office with the regular connections and facilities.

The Lincoln Post Office is First Class, with one central station located on the Square. Regular and substitute employes number 27.

The Lincoln Evening Courier issues a daily evening newspaper with a circulation of 4,800.

FUEL.

Operating coal mines adjacent to the corporation limits supply a good quality of coal for industrial and home use.

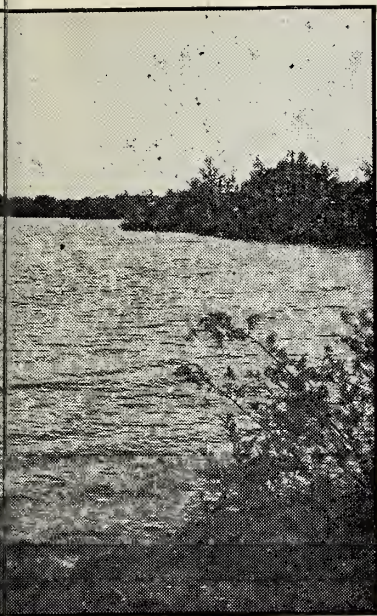
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

The three banks have shown a steady and consistent growth. Total deposits are over \$3,300,000, and total resources over \$4,575,000. Names of banks and dates of organization are: Lincoln National Bank 1885, American National Bank 1887, and Lincoln State Bank 1904.

The Lincoln Savings and Building Association, organized in 1883, has total assets of over \$2,500,000, and the Logan County Building and Loan Association, recently organized has total assets over \$255,000.

INDUSTRIAL

Lincoln has the natural and necessary facilities to attract and support industries and become an industrial center. The following factories are now in active operation with constantly growing output: Lincoln Casket Co., (caskets and fittings); Illinois China Co., (chinaware); Mitchell Bros. Co., (silk dresses); Watters Package Machine Co., gummed tape measuring machines); Love Mfg. Co., (corn cutters); Lincoln Bottling Works, (beverages); Weymer Paint Co.,



Boating

Fishing

Bathing

*Make this an ideal
recreational
center.*

(paints). Machine shops and supply houses take care of all demands.

Lincoln has mammoth greenhouses, ranking close to the top in this field, Gullett & Sons shipping approximately 12,000,000 roses yearly. The Lincoln Sand & Gravel Co. ship trainloads of sand and gravel daily from their pits adjoining the city. Sieb's Hatchery, with a capacity of 728,000 eggs in a battery of 14 incubators, hatches 160,000 baby chicks weekly and ships a total of 3,500,000 during the season. The Brewerton Coal Corporation mine and ship approximately 150,000 tons yearly. This is also the home offices of the McGrath Sand & Gravel Co., with plants in various parts of the state. Armour & Co. handle yearly 1,310,900 dozens of eggs and 2,074,200 lbs. poultry.

LABOR

A good supply of labor, male and female, both skilled and unskilled, is to be found in Lincoln. Most of the laboring class own their own homes and about 90% are American born.

MUNICIPAL

Lincoln has the aldermanic form of government. The mayor is elected biennially. 14 aldermen, one elected from each ward yearly.

TAXES

The tax rate for Lincoln for the year 1929 was \$3.91 per \$100. The city has no bonded indebtedness.

RETAIL

In quality, selection and price of merchandise, Lincoln's retail stores compare favorably with those of larger cities. The shopping district is compactly grouped with grocery stores conveniently located through the residence section.

CIVIL AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

Chamber of Commerce, Women's Club, Kiwanis. Rotary, Boy Scouts, Lincoln Country Club, and prac-

tically all fraternal and patriotic organizations with their auxiliaries.

RECREATION

Lincoln Lakes, over 125 acres of water, with fishing, boating and swimming, give Lincoln splendid recreational facilities. Parks and playgrounds are conveniently located in the city proper. Chautauqua Park, with 86 acres of wooded land and over 100 cottages, with a large steel auditorium, and the Lincoln Country Club with a sporty nine hole golf course and excellent club house are in constant use during the season.

Lincoln has two theaters, the Grand and the Lincoln. The Lincoln theater has just been reopened with an entirely new scheme of decoration and is considered one of the finest show houses in Central Illinois.

EDUCATION

Lincoln ranks high in its educational institutions with its grade schools, community high school, business college and the Lincoln Junior College. Parochial schools are of high standard and two institutions are a part of the city: The Lincoln State School & Colony with a population of 2,850 and The Illinois Odd Fellows Orphans Home with 250.

RELIGIOUS

Beautiful and modern churches representing nearly every denomination give Lincoln a high rank in church attendance.

HOSPITALS

The Deaconess with 60 beds and St. Clara's with 64 beds, both with complete and modern equipment, together with the competent professional representatives, make Lincoln a center for medical service.

LIBRARY

The Lincoln Public Library was established more than 50 years ago and is supported by city tax. It has approximately 28,225 volumes with a yearly circulation of over 85,900.

AGRICULTURE

Lincoln is the headquarters for the Logan County Farm Bureau with its associated organizations and taking an active part in the social and business life of the community. The Farm Forum has created national interest and the annual corn show and 4-H club exposition are real events. Logan County ranks high in the production of corn, wheat and oats as well as in other crops. Dairy, poultry, livestock, fruits, etc., are increasing in importance.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Large deposits of clay, coal, sand and gravel, lie adjacent to the corporation limits.

GENERAL

Lincoln has moderate priced hotels, restaurants, garages and service stations, modern tourist camps, and welcomes visitors and new residents. We invite consideration for factory location with available buildings and well located sites at reasonable terms.

(This pamphlet distributed by The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce.)

N. Y. Evening World, Feb. 12, '31.

Lincoln Named Town In Illinois for Self

Christened Community With Watermelons When Obscure Lawyer

LINCOLN, Ill., Feb. 12 (A. P.)—Four American cities and towns bear the name of Lincoln, but only one—Lincoln, Ill.—received its name during the lifetime of the emancipator and had the honor of being christened—with the cutting of a watermelon—by Lincoln himself.

"All right, boys, go ahead, but I think you're making a mistake; nothing named Lincoln, so far as I knew, ever amounted to much."

That was Lincoln's rejoinder to the proposal of three of his friends to give the name of Lincoln to this newly laid out town in Central Illinois. The date was 1853 and Lincoln was an obscure rural lawyer.

When what is now the Chicago & Alton was laid through Illinois in 1852, Robert Latham, Virgil Hickox and John D. Gillette, all Illinois pioneers, purchased land in the center of Logan County near the railroad right of way as a prospective town site and with a view to making it the county seat.

As friends of Lincoln they had selected him as their legal adviser in the location of the proposed town. It was in Mr. Lincoln's office in Springfield on Aug. 24, 1853, that the name for the proposed town was under discussion.

Finally one of the proprietors said, "Let's name the town for Abe and call it Lincoln." The others agreed. It was at this point that Lincoln told his friends he thought they were making a mistake.

However, the name stuck, and five days later Lincoln was present at the sale of lots on the new town site.

"At the noon hour," so relates a Lincoln chronicler, "he purchased two watermelons at a vendor's booth and, with a melon under each arm, called the proprietors of the new town to the proposed court-house square and cut the two melons in twain, giving half to each proprietor and retaining half for himself, with the remark: 'We will now proceed to christen the new town.'"

Postville had been the first county seat of Logan County, but the new

Lincoln later absorbed the village which contained the primitive court-house built in 1840 and in which Lincoln practiced law. Recently this building was purchased by Henry Ford and transported to Dearborn.

"Honest Abe" Attended Lincoln, Ill. Christening

Lincoln, Ill., Feb. 12 (AP).—Twenty-four American cities and towns bear the name of Lincoln, but only one—Lincoln, Ill.—received its name during the lifetime of the Emancipator and had the honor of being christened—with the cutting of a watermelon—by Lincoln himself.

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TROY N Y RECORD
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1931.

Lincoln Plans to Reopen, Clean Old Town Well

Lincoln, July 8.—The city council Monday night adopted a resolution to re-open and clean the old town well of Postville at the corner of Fifth and Jefferson streets from which Abraham Lincoln often quenched his thirst while transacting legal business at Logan county's first court house.

The well is located across the street from the site of the old court house, which was moved to Detroit by Henry Ford, and was sunk in 1837. For years the well was used as a watering place for stock. It had an old wooden type pump and water trough. Then an iron pump was installed and about 18 years ago when the platform became dangerous the pump was taken out and the well was sealed with a concrete platform.

A petition bearing 36 signatures of residents of Postville, many of whom drank from the old well was presented to the aldermen to have the well re-opened. The well is lined with limestone rock obtained from Rocky Ford and the same kind of rock used as a foundation for the old courthouse.

Mayor Peter Murphy named a new board of health to include Alderman James Burns and Claud Russell and Dr. Hubert Bradburn.

*Revised story
June 5, 1931*

City Named For Lincoln

Civil War President's Career Was Intimately Associated With History Of Logan County, Which He Fathered.

Lincoln, June 29.—This is the centennial year—for Postville and Mt. Pulaski—and likewise it is the centennial year of the connection of Abraham Lincoln and this community.

Judge Lawrence B. Stringer, student of Lincoln lore, who has compiled a history of Logan county as well as having assembled many things of interest about Abraham Lincoln, has the following to say:

"The history of Logan county and the history of Abraham Lincoln impinge upon each other, where they do not run in parallel grooves. The history of Logan county could no more be written without frequent references to incidents in Lincoln's life, than could be written the history of the state, the nation or the world, without a record of Lincoln's deeds. From the time he came from Kentucky to Illinois, to the time he became president of the nation, his career was inseparably connected with the growth, progress and development of Logan county.

Formed Logan County.

"He was Logan county's surveyor, Logan county's lawyer and Logan county's friend. He formed and created the county, as far as its legal and government entity was concerned. He was the father of the bill that brought it into being and gave it constitutional life. He was the autocrat who said what territory it should and should not contain and how far its boundaries should extend. He was its adviser and advocate in all affairs of a legal trend and followed its fortunes, defending it at every turn, to the supreme tribunal of the state.

"He was the personal friend of the early settler and pioneer of the county, visited their homes, knew them by their Christian names, attended to their lawsuits, inspired them with his homespun integrity and entertained them with his ready jokes.

Known As Friend.

"Other localities may remember Lincoln as the president, hero of the war, savior of his country, and the martyr of a righteous cause, but to Logan county and central Illinois, alone, belongs the Lincoln of the black loam, who built his neighbor's cabin and hoed his neighbor's corn, followed a rough justice around a rough circuit, tended the bedside of many a sick coward, who feared the judgment—the same physician who was to tend the bedside of the nation in her agony, whose large hand was to be on her feeble pulse and whose knowledge, almost divine, was to work out the miracle of her healing."

Apparently Abraham Lincoln made his first official contact in the territory what is now Logan county June 16, 1836, just a hundred years ago, when as deputy county surveyor of

Mt. Pulaski, at which Lincoln was not present.

It was while attending court in Postville in 1843 that Lincoln was given the nickname "Honest Abe" by Judge Treat when Lincoln sent word to the court in answer to a request to defend a client whom Lincoln had known was guilty, "I can't come: My hands are dirty and I want to clean them." Lincoln was playing ball in the Postville park when the sheriff found him.

Attorney In High Court.

In the first case ever appealed to the supreme court from Logan county court, Lincoln served as an attorney for the county. It was the case of Lucien B. Adams vs. county of Logan which arose over the removal of the county seat from Postville to Mt. Pulaski.

Lincoln, Ill., is the only town in the world named for Abraham Lincoln, with his consent, before he became famous. As an attorney for the proprietors for the new town of Lincoln, which was founded in 1853 with the connivance of the railroad, Col. Robert B. Latham, John D. Gillett and Virgil Hickox conferred with Lincoln in Springfield as to arrangements for the contemplated sale of lots in the proposed new town.

Colonel Latham suggested the town be named for Mr. Lincoln and to that Lincoln replied:

"You'd better not do that, for I never knew anything named Lincoln that amounted to much."

On the day of the sale of lots Lincoln christened the new town with the juice of two watermelons.

Origin Of Saying.

At the time of his death Mr. Lincoln owned a lot on the south side of the courthouse square in this city. This lot is now the property of D. H. Harts and a bronze tablet marks the place.

The expression, "You can fool part of the people all of the time, and all of the people part of the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time," was made by Mr. Lincoln when a candidate for United States senator in 1858 from a stand erected on the northeast corner of the courthouse square.

Following Mr. Lincoln's nomination for the presidency at the now fa-

mous Wigwam convention in Chicago May 18, 1860, the first organization of Lincoln "Wide-awakes" was formed at Atlanta June 22, 1860. Another was formed in Lincoln and the "Lincoln Guards" was formed in Mt. Pulaski. In the council chamber of the city hall in Lincoln is a rough sketch of Abraham Lincoln in lamp-black on rough cloth; it was used as a banner during the campaign by the Atlanta "Wideawakes."

Monuments Are Few.

In Logan county today monuments of Mr. Lincoln are few. The old Postville courthouse was purchased by Henry Ford from the late Mrs. Timothy T. Beach and moved to Greenfield, Mich., where it was restored in 1929. However to Judge Stringer's notion Mr. Ford ruined the sentiment and interior of the old courthouse when he placed a modern fireplace in it. The fireplace and chimney on the outside were not reproduced as it was in the old days, either.

There are a few records in the Logan county courts which had been filed by Lincoln while many others were destroyed when the old courthouse burned. A number of years ago some of the court records were removed by persons not entitled to them.

Park Still Remains.

Other landmarks include:

The Postville park where Mr. Lincoln indulged in pioneer sports with the early settlers.

The Old Primm store, erected in 1837, the original post office, now occupied by Camp Lincoln.

Site of the Old Postville tavern on Fifth street opposite the site of the courthouse.

Present Logan county courthouse grounds on which two former courthouses stood in which Mr. Lincoln practiced law from 1853 until he became president.

Triangular lot, Union and Fifth streets where Douglas spoke in a tent, Sept. 5, 1858, with Lincoln as an auditor.

Site of original Lincoln house, Broadway and Chicago streets, where Lincoln was a frequent guest.

Site of original C. & A. depot where the first Logan county volunteers embarked for the Civil war, April 21, 1861; where Douglas spoke briefly for

the Union cause April 26, 1861, and where the Lincoln funeral train halted briefly at sunrise May 3, 1865.

Lincoln college, ground for which was broken on Feb. 12, 1865, Lincoln's last living birthday.

county he landed at and made the survey of Albany on the west banks of the river. So far as is known, it never boasted a habitation. In the last few years farmers in cultivating the fields have occasionally turned up corner stones but now all trace of the survey has disappeared.

In the division of the county of Sangamon into the counties of Menard, Logan and Christian, at first called Dane, an issue arose in that Sangamon county was opposed to the redistricting, and settlers in the outlying districts presented Abraham Lincoln as their champion and candidate for the legislature. This issue, which resulted in the creation of Logan county, brought Lincoln into public life for the first time.

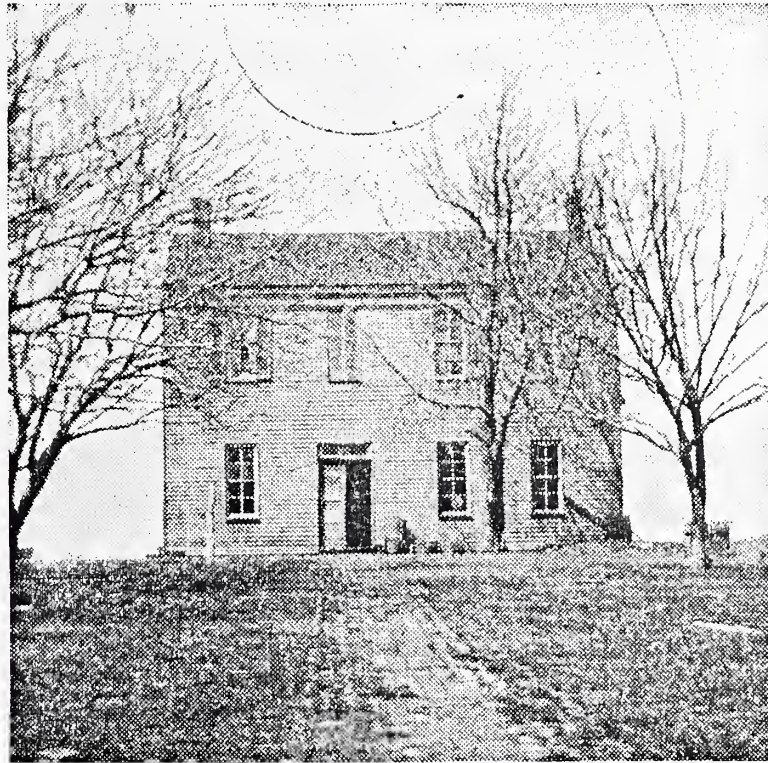
Named New County.

Lincoln served as the chairman on the committee on counties and one of two bills first presented by Lincoln when he became elected to the legislature was for the creation of Logan county. It was Lincoln who named the new county Logan—for Doctor Logan of Jackson county, Ill., who no doubt helped Lincoln get the bill passed in 1839.

It was as a lawyer that Lincoln was best known to central Illinois settlers. The same year the county was formed the famous Eighth judicial circuit was organized and Lincoln was a popular attorney in that circuit. Comparatively few, if any, were the terms of the Logan county circuit court, either at Postville or at

JOURNAL, SPRINGFIELD, ILL., TUESDAY, JUNE 20 - '30

Old Postville Courthouse



This hitherto unpublished picture, showing the old Postville courthouse at Lincoln, was taken more than fifty years ago by the late E. C. Schwertferger and is now in the possession of Logan County Judge Lawrence B. Stringer. The old hitching post is in front; to the left is the old well. The building is shown at the time before it was used as a private residence. It has since been purchased by Henry Ford and moved to his museum at Greenfield, Mich.

EXCERPTS FROM LINCOLN CITY DIRECTORY 1875-76

(Loaned by Mr. William Atkins, 829 Pekin Street, Lincoln, Illinois - June, 1937)

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

In 1864 the churches of the Cumberland Presbyterians, embraced within the synods of Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa, resolved to endow a University for the great West. This was necessitated by the destruction of most of their schools during the war, they having been located, principally, in the Southern States.

Thus the "Angel of Peace" descended amidst the calamities of war. We learn that the proposition originated in Indiana, and was first proposed by Revs. James Ritchey and Elam McCord. Illinois and Iowa espoused the cause with the spirit of the ministry of these states, and five commissioners, one from each synod, were appointed to select a location. Rev. James White, then pastor at Lincoln, but now of Tallula, Illinois, entered into the work with zeal and energy at the proper moment, and to his exertions and influence, backed by the citizens of Lincoln, is due much of the credit of its location here. Col. R. B. Latham, A. C. Boyd, and others, suggested the matter to Mr. White, who, after discussing the subject, called a meeting of the citizens at the court house, in the fall of 1864. The meeting was largely attended by our citizens, who for three years had been constantly appealed to for the sinews of war, but who gladly contributed of their means to erect a temple to be dedicated to the "Goddess of Peace," and \$11,000 were raised at the first meeting, which was afterward increased to \$24,000, and a site for the University, consisting of eleven acres of land, donated by Col. R. B. Latham, John Wyatt, and J. D. Gillett, Esqs.

Now came the struggle. The commissioners were nearly all instructed in favor of home location. Armed with the subscriptions, Mr. White, as the delegate from Lincoln, presented the matter to the commissioners at their meeting at Mt. Zion, near Decatur, in February, 1865. So strong were the home location claims urged, that he was barely able to secure a visit to this point, which was next day after the adjournment. The morning

was cold and rainy, dismal and dreary; but our citizens came forth with warm hearts to greet the commissioners. After visiting the various sites offered, they approached the one selected. Heaven's smile greeted a welcome----the clouds quickly disappeared----a warm sun shed light upon the scene----a train of cars at this time left the depot, and careering over our beautiful prairie, added a charm to the view. Nature and art joined in the welcome----the wilderness was passed----the "Canaan was found"----the exclamation was heard----"Eureka," and the University, and the hillock on which it stands, became in due time consecrated to the cause of Religion, Art, Science, and Refinement; a source of honor to our citizens, and a blessing to mankind.

Thus we record a part of the traditions of one of Logan's most honored institutions. Ground was broken in 1865, on the anniversary of the honored man whose name it bears, (suggested by John Wyatt, Esq., one of the first trustees), and was so far completed by the 1st of September, 1866, that it was opened for the reception of students.

The institution has had three presidents; first, Dr. Azel Freeman, then when a more generous mind never directed the young in search of knowledge, who was succeeded by Dr. J. C. Bowden, who, failing in health under the arduous labors of this important trust, was soon called hence, and----

"He is gone, yes, gone forever,
From the busy walks of life;
Gone to dwell beyond the river,
In that Eden, free from strife."

* * * * *

"But our loss must be his gain,
Since in God was placed his trust;
Be his spirit free from pain;
Peace be to his sleeping dust."

Dr. A. J. McGlunphy, a perfect model of discipline, then took, and still holds the honored position. The University, thus far, has proved a perfect success; the practical

knowledge, so useful to all in after life, is imparted to the student, and we challenge any and all kindred institutions to show a larger list of successful men in life, than Lincoln University can produce, considering the time it has been in operation. Its graduates now stand at the ^{head} ~~rear~~, as officers and teachers of colleges, seminaries, and public schools; the pulpit, the bar, the editorial chair, and the medical fraternity, are represented by the Alumni of this recently organized institution.

Its Faculty are men in the prime of life, who not only give a thorough education in the solid requirements, but fully appreciate the necessity of the finer arts. Music receives its share of attention, and the demands of refinement are answered by the cheering notes of the piano, the melody of the organ, mingling in harmonious unison with the soft sounds of the guitar, and richly cultivated human voices.

In conclusion, we would say to all who desire to give their children a sound and polished education, entrust them to the faculty of this institution, to which we here refer.

FACULTY OF LINCOLN UNIVERSITY FOR 1875-6

A. J. McGlumphy, D. D., President

Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy

D. M. HARRIS, A. M.
Professor of Ancient Languages

A. R. Taylor, Ph. B.
Professor of Natural Sciences

B. F. McCord, A. M.
Professor of Mathematics

Samuel Richards, D. D.
Professor of Systematic Theology

J. W. Poindexter, D. D.
Professor of Pastoral Theology

August Klu, M. M.
Director of Lincoln ~~University~~ University Conservatory of Music

Miss Sarah J. McCord
Professor of English Literature

A. H. Mills, A. B.

Tutor

Mrs. I. Wilkinson
Teacher of Ornamental Painting

A TEACHERS' INSTITUTE

Was organized in Lincoln as early as July 1862 by Dr. Reidler, then School Commissioner of the county, but owing to the small attendance, and a want of interest in those most to be benefitted, the enterprise was abandoned until March, 1867, when, under the direction of Mr. Chalfant, who was Superintendent at that time, a session of five days was held. Seventy-eight teachers were in attendance at this Institute, and a lively interest was manifested. Another session was held in October, of the same year, with an increased attendance, which resulted in establishing

THE LOGAN COUNTY TEACHERS' INSTITUTE,

as one of the permanent institutions of the county. One or two sessions have been held each year, since that time, continuing from one to four weeks, producing the very best of results.

At the various sessions mentioned, instructions were given by Profs. McGlumphy, Howitt, Edwards, Hamill, Harris, Metcalf, Wilkinson, Chalfant, Turner, Scullin and others.

Evening lectures have been delivered by Docts. Bateman, Bowden, Edwards, McGlumphy; Profs. Howitt, Turner, McGraw, and Superintendent Chalfant.

The County superintendent is ex-officio President of the Institute. The names of the Secretaries, since the permanent organisation, in 1867 are as follows: B. F. January, B. F. Conner, J. S. Wren, T. L. Matchett, J. F. Hyde, E. G. Hudson, Mattie Bobbit, and W. E. Wyatt. In addition to the County Institute a number of local or township Institutes are annually held throughout the county, attended with the most satisfactory results, showing a constantly increasing interest in the matter of education.

* * * * *

On the 15th of Feb., 1839, Logan county, as it now stands, came into actual existence, and received its name in honor of Dr. JOHN LOGAN, an old resident of the State, who at the time of the passage of the act organizing the county, was a member of the Legislature from Jackson county.

Our county is situated in the geographical center of Illinois, "the Garden State of the Union," the surface gently undulating, the climate salubrious and healthy, the soil rich and productive, well adapted to raising wheat, corn, oats, barley, potatoes, etc. In fruits ----- apples, pears, and ^{grapes} ~~graps~~ seldom fail, and good crops of peaches are frequently obtained, small fruit and berries of all kinds are easily cultivated, and are beginning to be raised in considerable quantity for home consumption, and might be cultivated with profit for shipment.

The county is well supplied with water for stock by Salt Creek, which runs through the center from east to west, with its tributaries, Prairie, Sugan, Kickapoo, and Deer Creeks, whose banks are skirted with groves of timber, but not in very great abundance. Coal, however, is found in all parts of the county, in large quantities, which, in a short time, will supply the place of wood for fuel, and the hedge is being extensively introduced for fencing purposes.

But we are progressing too rapidly in our history of the county. Let us go back, at least in imagination, to the time when such hardy pioneers as JAMES LATHAM, ROBERT BUCKLES and JOHN HAWES camped by the side of the clear waters of our beautiful streams, sleeping under the canvas of their wagons, with tribes of roving Indians hovering about on every side; content with their "Jonny-cake" and wild game for food, and the ^{huck} ~~huck~~-skin and home-spun" for clothing; when the green hills were covered with a thousand varieties of beautiful flowers; when the woods were filled with the feathered ~~songster~~ ^{songster} and the nimble squirrel, resting on the limbs of the sturdy oak, that had never heard the sound of the woodman's ax; when the deer, the antelope and the buffalo grazed the sunny slopes and drank the clear, sparkling water from the brooks, without the fear of the deadly ball from the

from the hunter's rifle; let us contrast the past with the present; let us now take a view in reality, and pass over the well-beaten road with the green hedge on either side, and beyond view the green fields of stately corn, the waving wheat the smooth meadow, and the pastures covered with cattle awaiting shipment to the crowded cities of the east, let us rest for a moment and consider in detail some of the many improvements that have, in a short time, grown up in our midst.

There are now embraced within the limits of the county the cities of Lincoln and Atlanta, and the villages of Broadwell, Beason, Chestnut, Cornland, Elkhart, Hadon, Hartsburg, Latham, Lawndale, Middletown, Mt. Pulaski, San Jose, Burton View, New Holland and Skelton.

The county contains 393,923 acres, of which 363,943 are improved, and 29,980 acres unimproved. Of the improved land, 16,000 acres are cultivated in wheat,, 140,000 in corn, and the balance, 207,933 acres, in other grain, vegetables, meadows and pastures.

The wealth may be estimated by the assessment statistics of 1875.

	VALUE
Number of Horses/12,794.....	\$ 642,818
Number of Cattle.25,479.....	515,946
" " Sheep,4,011.....	7,829
" " Hogs, 40,678.....	174,406
" " Mules, 2,118.....	<u>132,439</u>
Total value of stock.....	\$1,473,238
Total value of Personal property.....	3,570,679
" " " Real Estate.....	11,726,886
" " " Railroad Property.....	<u>837,997</u>
Total assessed value.....	\$16,135,530

The steady increase in population is shown by the following table:

Year	Population
1840.....	2,383
1850.....	5,128
1860.....	14,272
1865.....	18,501
1870.....	23,141

1875(estimated).....27,000

The first county seat was located in Postville, (now a part of the city of Lincoln,) from which place it was removed to Mt. Pulaski in 1847, and on the 14th of February 1853 was again removed and located on Section 31, Town 20, Range 2, (now located ~~as~~ included in the City,) and about one mile east of its first location.

The town of Postville, now constituting a part of the Fourth Ward in the city of Lincoln, and at one time having the honor of being called the county seat of Logan county, was laid out in 1835, by Russell Post, and for a number of years afforded a place of rest for man and beast when traversing the broad and noble prairies of Illinois.

But as it is not our purpose to claim for our thriving city that antiquity which might be awarded to St. Louis, Chicago, and other small (italics) towns, we propose to commence our sketch at a time so recent that it may come within the recollection of some of its oldest and most respected citizens.

In 1852, Col. J. A. Latham, John D. Gillett and Virgil Rickson purchased the Northwest quarter of Section thirty-one, Town 20 Range 2 west, for \$1600 or at the rate of \$10 per acre. In March, 1853, they laid out the original town of Lincoln, on the same, and offered the lots at a public sale on the 26th day of August, the same year. At this sale the highest price obtained for lots was \$125. The two lots on which now stands Gillett's Block, (80 by 160 feet) were sold for \$125, or \$62.50 per lot. In 1871, Mr. Gillett paid \$4000 for part of a lot adjoining, (20 by 50) feet, or at the rate of \$24,000 per lot.

The first store was built by E. Boren and Jesse Forbis, and business opened in it in December 1853. *

Among the first merchants, say from 1853 to 1857, may be mentioned Messrs. Hendrickson & Nethebild, Edgar & Johnson, Kahn Bros., Howser & Metcalf, John W. Logan, C. F. Stillman, Howser & Higgins, Kelso & Boren, and T. Blackburn.

* Burned December 6th 1871

LITERARY SOCIETIES

Amasagacian

Organized November 1866. Motto--"Sine Doctrina Vita est Mortis Imago". Officers: President, I. H. Mills; Vice-president, L. P. Marshall; Critic, J. Johnston; Recording Secretary, Buff Hall; Corresponding Secretary, S. B. Roach; Chaplain, Y. W. Whitsett; Prosecuting Attorney, C. L. Kelley; Librarian, W. Van Orstrand; Marshall W. Evans. Total names recorded, 278; number of graduates 19; present membership, 43.

Amicitian

Organized September 1867. Motto--"Ecce ego eis qui se Juvant Adest". Officers: President Miss Ella Davis; Vice-President, Miss Mattie Hannah; Recording Secretary, Miss Cora Channing; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Mary Van Patten; Treasurer, Miss Lou Roach; Chaplain, Miss Lady Polindexter; Reporter, Miss Anna Wyatt; Critic, Miss Belle Deavelan; Marshall, Miss Mary Wyatt. Total names recorded 178; number of graduates 8; present membership 45.

Atenian

Organized November 1866. Motto--"Ipse Vibi Quisque". Officers: President, J. L. Leck; Vice-president J. E. De David; Chaplain, W. H. Haugh; Recording Secretary, J. F. Stout; Critic, T. H. Fruit; Treasurer, S. W. Walker; Prosecuting Attorney, E. H. Van Patten; Usher, W. H. Lawrence; Librarian H. F. Starkey. Total names recorded, 268; number of graduates, 25; present membership, ----.

Neotropean

Organized, October, 1869. Motto---"Aude Sapere". Officers: President Minnie Maltby; Vice-President, Lucy Leers; Recording Secretary, Anna Cadwallader; Corresponding Secretary, Minnie Maltby; Critic, Anna Stephenson; Chaplain, Mattie Miller; Prosecuting Attorney, May Mc Laekin; Marshall, Maggie Wall. Total names recorded 80; number of graduates 5; present membership 13.

Alumni Society, L. U.

Organized, June 1868. Officers: President J. W. Starkey, of '74; Vice-President J. H. Miller, of '71; Recording Secretary, Mary D. Hudson of '72; Corresponding Secretary, Lizzie E. Bell, of '75; Treasurer, Minnie E. Bell, of '72.

Churches (page 146)

First Methodist Episcopal Church, Organized March 17, 1856. Cor. of Broadway and Logan.
First Regular Baptist Church, Organized April 19, 1856. Corner Broadway and Ottawa.
Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Organized Feb. 2, 1857. Corner of Pokin and Ottawa Sts..
Pastor J. T. Polindexter, D. D.; Supt. of Sunday School, Dr. A. J. Mc Clumphy.
Number of Members, 300; number in Sunday School 260. Sunday services 10:30 A. M., and evening; Sunday School, 2:30 P. M..
Christian Church, Organized 1857. 98 Pokin, between McLean and Nickapoo.
Congregational Church, Organized, 1859. Corner of Broadway and Ottawa.
Evangelical St. John's Church (German) Organized, 1865. Corner McLean and Clinton.
German Catholic Church, Organized 1865. Corner of Court and Maple Streets.
Catholic Church (St. Patrick's) Organized 1867--102 Logan, between Clinton and Decatur.
Presbyterian Church, Organized 1867. Corner of Pokin and Mc Lean Sts. Pastor Rev. L. P. Crawford; Supt. of Sunday School: A. D. Shelton. Number of members, 116; no. in Sunday School, 120. Sunday services 10:30 A. M. and evening; Sunday School at 2:30.
etc..

Logan County's First 25 Pioneer Settlers

Lincoln County, Illinois, 1837

By JUDGE L. B. STRINGER.
(Written for the Evening Courier)
A questionnaire was recently submitted to the students of a class of history in the Springfield schools, wherein each student was requested to write down the names of twenty-five persons who were prominent in the creation and early development of Sangamon county.

Each and every paper turned in contained, as a matter of course, the name of Abraham Lincoln but no other name whatsoever. This event, through the efforts of the D. A. R. organization, of Springfield, has greatly stimulated the study of pioneer history in that city.



JUDGE
STRINGER

Wondering what the result would be if a similar questionnaire were submitted to student classes in and as to Logan county, I have prepared what I have considered to be a list of twenty-five outstanding characters among the pioneers of Logan County.

James Latham No. 1.

(1) James Latham; first white settler in what is now Logan county; came from Kentucky, with his wife, Mary (Briggs) Latham, and family, and located at Elkhart hill, in the spring of 1819; two of his sons, Richard and Robert, were prominent in early Logan county history; built at Elkhart hill the first horse mill in Illinois, north of Edwardsville; first Probate Justice of Sangamon county, when present Logan was a part thereof; United States Indian Agent at Fort Clark, near site of present Peoria; died in 1826.

(2) Robert Musick; second white settler in present Logan county; located with wife, Sarah, and family, on Sugar Creek, north of present site of Lincoln, in the fall of 1819; early road viewer; father of ten children, one of whom, George, was a pioneer merchant in Postville and Sheriff in 1856.

(3) James Chapman; came with his father-in-law, James Latham, and with his wife, Elizabeth, and family, and first located on the Sangamon river; established the first ferry over that stream; a year later, settled in the Lake Fork valley; later moved to Rockyford and then to Elkhart hill; built first brick building in present Logan county; died in 1865.

First School Teachers.

(4) Erastus Wright; first school teacher in present Logan county; taught school at James Lathams in 1821; School Commissioner of Sangamon county, when present Logan was a part thereof; was famous for driving an elk in harness; laid out the town of West Lincoln, as an addition to Lincoln; killed by an Alton passenger train in 1870.

(5) James Turley; first permanent settler in the Lake Fork val-

ley; came from Kentucky with his wife, Agnes (Kirby) Turley, and family; was an arbitrator between the whites and the Indians, father of fourteen children, seven of each sex; his son, George W., was a lifetime Justice of the Peace and was one of the founders of Mt. Pulaski.

(6) Robert Buckles; early white settler in Lake Fork valley; came with his father-in-law, Jeremiah Birks, and his wife, Mary (Birks) Buckles, and a numerous family; elected County Commissioner of Logan county in 1843; died in 1866; his widow, Mary Buckles, known as "Aunt Polly", was, at her death in 1888, the ancestor of 285 living descendants.

(7) Jeremiah Birks; early settler in Lake Fork valley; located with his wife, Elizabeth (Brown) Birks, and family of eight children, at the mouth of Lake Fork; at death of first wife, married Rhoda, daughter of Hugh Collins; was famous as a deer hunter; later moved northward in present Mt. Pulaski township; the Steenbergen cemetery, well known in pioneer history, was located upon his land.

By Covered Wagon.

(8) Robert Downing; first settler in Salt creek settlement, north of present Mt. Pulaski; came in covered wagon, from New York, with his parents, John and Hannah, his wife, Jane (Morrow) Downing, and his brother, James, and families; veteran of the war of 1812; member of the first board of commissioners of Logan county; died in 1887, aged ninety-three years.

(9) John Hoblit; first white settler in Big Grove settlement, in present Atlanta township; came from Ohio, with his wife, Millicent (Steward) Hoblit, and eleven children; his son, Samuel, built a two-story house on the old stage road, from Springfield to Bloomington, where he frequently entertained Abraham Lincoln and other circuit-riding lawyers; another son, Timothy B., was the promoter of the pioneer town of Nek Castle, antecedent of present Atlanta, laid out in 1836 upon the land of Mahlon H. Hoblit, his brother; died in 1844.

(10) Charles F. Ewing; early settler in present Eminence township; came with his wife, Mary, his brother, John, and respective families; second State Representative from Logan county in 1842; at his death was the owner of over 1500 acres of Logan county land; his nephew, Rueben Ewing, was County Judge in 1857 and one of the promoters of the now extinct town of Bloomingdale.

(11) Carter Scroggin; early settler, with his wife, Phebe (Shelby) Scroggin, and family, in the Lake Fork timber, south of present Mt. Pulaski; died in 1859; his son, Leonard K., built the first large business structures in Mt. Pulaski, was a patron of the town and, at his death, was the most extensive land owner in Logan county.

Orendorffs Mill.

(12) Christopher Orendorff; early settler, with his wife, Elizabeth,

and his sons, Joseph, Benjamin, Alfred and David, in present Eminence township; established what was known as "Orendorff's mill" about 1827, which mill, after his death, passed into the hands of John Morgan and was thereafter known as "Morgan's mill"; died in 1829; his son, Joseph, later established a pioneer mill on Kickapoo creek, north of present Lincoln.

(13) Michael Mann; first local preacher in what is now Logan county; came to the Big Grove settlement with Samuel Hoblit and family; promoted the organization of the Big Grove Baptist church in 1830, which now continues in Atlanta, 137 years after its organization; first Probate Justice of Logan county; died in 1866.

(14) John Shoup; early settler, with his wife, Hannah, and family, in present Chester township; was a promoter of the creation of Logan county in 1839; was the first chairman of its first board of commissioners and the first organization meeting of the county took place at his home, near present Pleasant Grove school house; was captain of early county militia.

(15) Thomas R. Skinner; pioneer surveyor; deputy surveyor of Sangamon county, when Logan was a part thereof; surveyed the town of Mt. Pulaski in 1836; elected first County Surveyor of Logan county; Colonel of early state militia; elected County Judge in 1849, continuing in that office until his death in 1857.

(16) John Lucas; early settler, with his parents, Abraham and Marcy Lucas, and his brothers, in present Mt. Pulaski township; married Sarah Bowman, pioneer Justice of the Peace; elected Sheriff of Logan county in 1848; elected State Representative in 1848, serving with Edwards Carlin and Yates, later Governors of Illinois; died in 1855.

Mt. Pulaski's Founder.

(17) John Capps; leading spirit and one of the founders of Mt. Pulaski; first school teacher in Sangamon county; came from Springfield in 1836 to the then new town of Mt. Pulaski, with his wife, Prudence (Stafford) Capps, and his sons, Charles, Ebenezer and Oliver; established first store in Mt. Pulaski, known as "Capp's Headquarters"; on death of first wife, married Elizabeth Baker; was father of ten children in all; was first Recorder of Logan county; was postmaster of Mt. Pulaski for fifteen years; died in 1896, being over 99 years of age.

(18) Colbey Knapp; promoter of town of Middletown; came there, with his wife, Catherine, in 1836; postmaster of Middletown for 23 years; township treasurer for 20 years; Probate Justice of Logan county in 1840; elected State Representative in 1851; elected State Senator in 1862 and secured the passage of the special act creating Lincoln University; first treasurer of the University; moved to Lincoln in 1864 and Mayor of the city in 1869; died in 1882.

(19) James Primm; early resident of Postville, with his wife, Hannah; first postmaster in Postville; first Circuit Clerk and first Master in Chancery of Logan county in 1839; County Recorder in 1843; School Commissioner of county in 1845; extensive land speculator and deeded a lot on the court house square of Lincoln to Abraham Lin-

coln, who owned it at his death.

First County Sheriff.

(20) John Deskins: early resident of Postville; first physician in Logan county; elected first Sheriff of county in 1839; proprietor of the Postville Inn, where Abraham Lincoln stopped on his circuit travels; was elected State Representative in 1844.

(21) John C. Hurt: village shoemaker in Postville; raised a company of volunteers for the Mexican war, of which company he was captain and which participated in the famous battle of Cerro Gordo, where Lieut. George M. Cowardin and Private Nathaniel Milton were instantly killed, being the first Logan county soldiers to die for the flag; elected Sheriff in 1848, following the war.

(22) Samuel C. Parks: came from Springfield, with his wife, Elizabeth, and located in Mt. Pulaski in 1848; was a tentative law partner of Abraham Lincoln at both Mt. Pulaski and Lincoln; School Commissioner of Logan county in 1849; moved to Lincoln in 1853 and built the home occupied by the late T. T. Beach at his death; State Representative in 1854; delegate to National Convention which nominated John C. Fremont for President in 1856; delegate to National Convention which nominated Abraham Lincoln for President in 1860; presidential elector for Gen. Grant in 1863; appointed territorial Judge of Idaho by President Lincoln; member of the Constitutional Conven-

tion which drafted the present state constitution in 1870; appointed territorial Judge of New Mexico in 1878 and in 1882 of Wyoming; wrote a work entitled "The Great Trial" in 1900; died at the home of his daughter in Kansas City in 1930.

John D. Gillet.

(23) John D. Gillet: first located in present Lake Fork township in 1838; later moved to present Elkhart township; entered some 12,000 acres of Logan county land; had international reputation as a stock raiser and shipper; married a daughter of Elisha Parks, and, after her death, Emma, daughter of Gov. R. J. Oglesby; one of the proprietors of the town of Lincoln; erected the first brick buildings on the town-site, including the former Lincoln House, prominent in the commercial affairs of Lincoln; died in 1888.

(24) Leo W. Myers: son of Jonathan Myers, who erected the first mill at Rockyford; after his father's death, operated the mill until sold to Edmund Rankin, when it took the name of "Rankin's mill"; veteran of the Mexican war; was lieutenant of company in the Civil war and instantly killed at the battle of Shiloh, being, with John H. Duff, killed in same battle, the first Logan county soldiers to fall in the Civil war; was buried with military honors at Lucas Chapel, near Rockyford, and the G. A. R. post of Lincoln was named for him.

(25) Robert B. Latham: came with his father, James Latham, to Elkhart hill in 1819; entered some

6000 acres of land in present Logan county; elected Sheriff in 1852; secured right of way through the county of what was later known as the Chicago and Alton railroad; one of the proprietors of the town of Lincoln; elected State Representative in 1860; Colonel of the 106th Illinois Regiment in the Civil war; member first board of Trustees of Lincoln University, later President; frequently entertained at his home Abraham Lincoln, whom he knew from boyhood; died in 1895.

Honor Lincoln With Tablet Dedication

July 21 1941
LINCOLN EVENING COURIER

Impressive ceremonies marked the unveiling of the bronze tablet, telling of the incident of Abraham Lincoln sitting as a judge of the Logan county circuit court in 1857 in the Lincoln Christian church, in an outdoor service held Sunday afternoon at the church and Latham park.

The Rev. Earl C. Hargrove, pastor of the church, spoke briefly on Abraham Lincoln's reverence, an attribute that marked him as a world leader, and Judge L. B. Stringer told of the historical events surrounding Lincoln and his connection to the church and the community.

Assisting in the program were: Rev. Gale Hollingsworth, of Emden; Rev. G. W. Terjung, of Lincoln; C. W. Routson and Ben Leisch, who presented the tablet to Harry Foster, president of the Men's club who in turn presented it to Paul Coffman, president of the joint church board. Spencer Littleton, sang, accompanied by Mrs. David Hanger; Mr. Hanger played an organ prelude; Vincent Jones lead in community singing and A. D. Dike, of the V.F.W. and Fred Kochendorfer, of the American Legion, lead the audience in the pledge to the flag.

Lincoln's Reverence.

"Reverence certainly was not lacking in the life of Abraham Lincoln", Rev. Hargrove said. "It was reverence for truth that led Lincoln, on July 17, 1858, to make his celebrated 'house-divided-against-itself' speech, in opposition to the advice and protest of many of his closest friends. To their suggestion that it would defeat him in his contest with Douglas for the United States Senate, he replied:

"This thing has been retarded long enough. The time has come when these sentiments should be uttered, and if it is decreed that I should go down linked with the truth—let me die the advocacy of what is just and right."

"Charges have been made from time to time that Lincoln was an agnostic, an infidel and an atheist. Usually such charges have originated with men who were, themselves, skeptically inclined, and who evidently desired to place Lincoln in their class because of the support which his name would bring to their cause. The refutation of all such charges is found in Lincoln's life as revealed in his words and deeds.

"In view of the reverence which Lincoln always manifested in all the relations of life, it is certainly most fitting, and perhaps more than a mere coincidence, that the last act of Congress signed by him was one requiring that the motto, so con-

stantly exemplified in his life, In God We Trust, should thereafter be inscribed upon all national coin; and that, in his last address he ever made, April 11, 1865, in referring to the joy which the hope of a righteous and speedy peace brought he said:

"In the midst of this, however, He from whom all blessings flow must not be forgotten."

Judge Stringer's Address

Judge Stringer's address follows:

"The early history of Logan County and the early history of Abraham Lincoln ran in parallel grooves when they did not actually impinge upon each other.

"When deputy surveyor of Sangamon county, when what is now Logan was a part of Sangamon, he surveyed highways and a townsite in Logan County.

"When a member of the State Legislature and what is now Logan was a part of his district, he was the author of the bill which carved Logan out of Sangamon and gave Logan County separate civic life.

"When serving a single term in Congress, Logan County was likewise a part of his district.

"As a lawyer, he was for several years the tentative official lawyer of the county and he practiced law on the old and famous Eighth Judicial Circuit in four different court houses in Logan County, one at old Postville, the first county seat, one at Mt. Pulaski, the second county seat, and two at Lincoln, third and present county seat.

"The events we commemorate today have to do with Abraham Lincoln, with the third court house of Logan County, with a pioneer house of worship upon the site where we now stand and with the Old Eighth Judicial Circuit so famed in Lincoln story.

"Judicial circuits in those days, owing to the sparsity of population, were less numerous and more extensive than now and a single judge, instead of three as now, handled all the legal business of the circuit.

"By stage coach, horseback and horse-drawn chaise, over obscure trails and bridgeless streams, the judge toilsomely traveled the circuit from county seat to county seat and as the smaller county seats had few if any lawyers the lawyers of the larger county seats followed the judge around the circuit.

"The Old Eighth Judicial Circuit of Lincoln tradition and story was created in the same month and year that Logan county was created, namely the month of February, 1839, Logan county was always a part of that circuit from its creation until after the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln traveled that circuit from soon after his admission to the bar until he was elected President of the United States.

"When Postville was the first county seat of the county, Judge Samuel H. Treat was the circuit judge. In 1848, when Mt. Pulaski became the county seat, Judge David Davis, of Bloomington was elected circuit judge and he served in that capacity both at Mt. Pulaski and Lincoln until he resigned in 1861.

"The reason Judge Davis resigned

was that one of the lawyers who had practiced before him at Mt. Pulaski and Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln, had become President of the United States and had elevated Judge Davis from a frontier Illinois circuit to the Supreme Court of the Nation.

"Four years prior to the events we commemorate today, the railroad had first come to Logan county and on its right of way three enterprising young men had laid out a new townsite, which in honor of their personal friend and incorporating lawyer they named Lincoln, the only town in the world named for Abraham Lincoln before he was President, before he was thought of as President and when his main reputation, as he traveled the old circuit, was that of a good lawyer and an honest man.

"The same year the people of the county voted to locate the county seat of the county at the new Lincoln-named townsite but litigation, which Abraham Lincoln carried to the Supreme Court of the state, delayed the erection of a court house until the year 1856.

"The March term of the Logan County circuit court for the year 1857 was held in this court house at Lincoln but the September term was not so held, for at midnight of April 14th, 1857, the new court house was discovered in flames.

"The fire was discovered by one Thomas Lake, a brakeman on the

new railroad, who recovered a few index books from the flames. With these exceptions, the prior records of the county were destroyed. This Thomas Lake was an uncle of the late lamented Prof. E. S. Lake, so well known to the present Christian church congregation.

"At the time of the Lincoln court house fire, Logan county had a population of less than ten thousand, about half of its land was unim-

proved, considerable uncentered, and church and school buildings very few and primitive.

"The town of Lincoln was but four years old and possessed a single school building but no completed church. Several church societies had been organized the year before and three had churches in process of erection.

"The most commodious of these three, the nearest to the public square and the nearest to completion was the Lincoln Christian church located on the site where we now stand. The Lincoln Christian church society is the only church society erecting a church building in Lincoln in the fifties which is still worshipping on the original site.

"By the time of the September 1857 session of the Logan county circuit court, the Christian church of Lincoln was practically completed, although the building had not yet been turned over to the church society by the contractor and the church had not yet been dedicated.

"Arrangements were therefore made for the use of the church building for the September session of the Logan county circuit court and the same was held in the building from September twenty-first to October second, Sundays excepted, Judge Davis presiding except on one historic occasion.

"Among the earlier educators of this county was one Dr. J. H. Beidler, of Mt. Pulaski, a man of literary and poetic talents, who in 1861 was elected School Commissioner for Logan county, an office now known as County Superintendent of Schools. In the middle eighties, he wrote reminiscences of his early experiences and they were published in the Lincoln Herald. Among other things he said:

"I saw Lincoln for the first time in the village of Lincoln, in Logan county. The Logan county court house had been destroyed by fire and court was held at the time in the Christian church.

"As I entered the court room, I discovered that Judge Davis was not occupying the bench but that another man and one I had never seen was dispensing justice. His rulings were so rapid and his language was so pertinent that I felt he must be a legal gentleman of eminence.

"I inquired who he was and was informed that he was Abe Lincoln of Springfield."

"In this connection, it may be truthfully said that Mr. Lincoln was never elected at any time as a judge of any court. Nevertheless, it may be as truthfully said that by agreement of judge and contesting lawyers, Mr. Lincoln temporarily performed duties as a judge in Judge Davis' absence.

"Frederick Trever Hill in his 'Lincoln the Lawyer' says:

"Judge Davis frequently assigned Lincoln to the bench and left him to conduct the court in his absence. Judge Weldon informed the writer that he personally tried a jury case with Lincoln on the bench and Whitney asserts that once Lincoln conducted an entire term of court in Champaign county."

"After nearly a half century of service, the original Christian church built on this site in 1857 was in need of reconstruction and enlargement to meet increasing needs. So it was that the present church building came to occupy this site

in 1904, but the work of reconstruction was not wholly one of substitution. It was in part a work of absorption.

"All the usable materials in the original church were incorporated in the new. Many of the same hand-hewn beams and girders support the roof, original pews are still utilized and the same old bell calls to worship.

"The present church is a physical continuation of the building in which Abraham Lincoln held court and practiced law. It is a daily reminder of the contribution he made to honest popular government and of the Christian faith the pioneers brought to the prairies of central Illinois.

"In the early days of Logan county, the old Postville court house was the community church. It was only turn about and fair play that in later years a church should be a temporary Logan county court house.

"The Mosaic law of the Scriptures is the basis of all good law. Courts have been instituted for the dispensing of justice between man and man. Justice is an inherent attribute of Deity. The church and the courts have that which is in common.

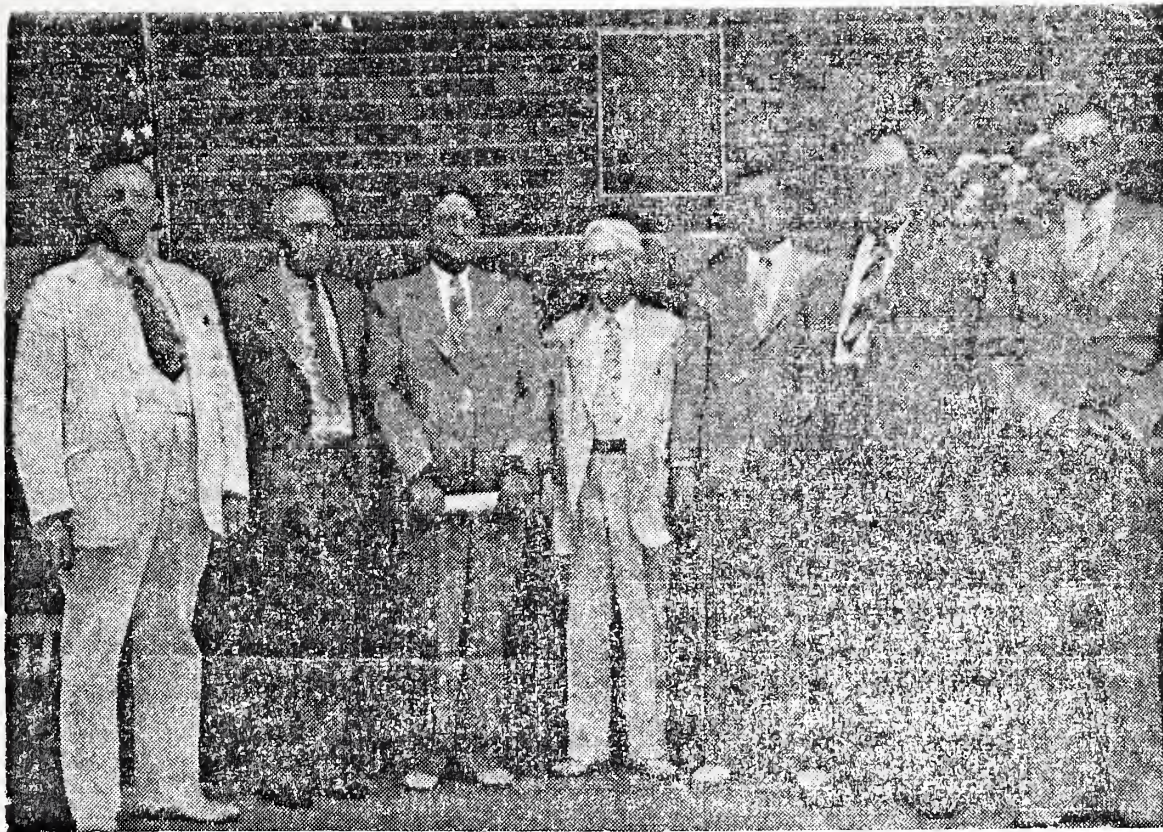
"It is certainly fitting and appropriate that the associations which hang about this church structure should be commemorated in bronze recital upon its walls. It is fitting that the contacts of the great Lincoln with these surroundings in his formative years should thus be remembered.

"The Lincoln of those days was a provincial Lincoln, known to a rural circuit and a frontier state. The Lincoln we know today is a Lincoln of world-wide thought, influence and power. The Lincoln of those days was a Lincoln of periodic environment. The Lincoln of today "belongs to the ages."

"Lincoln grew as his world widened. The world of his youth was the valley of the Ohio. The world of his maturer years was the greater valley of the Mississippi. The world of his Presidency was the whole round world, as he found it, and the issues he faced and the manner in which he faced them gave him immortality.

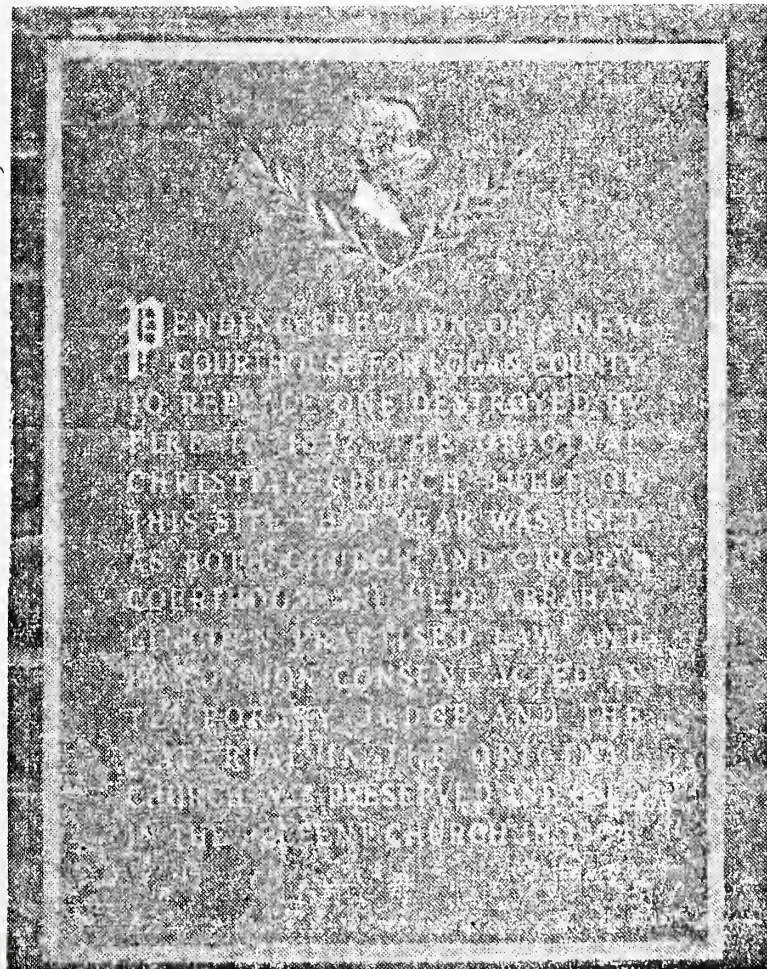
"Kentucky gave him to Illinois, by way of Indiana, as the forest ranger. Illinois gave him to the Republic in the hour of its peril. The Republic gave him to the world as the Morning Star of Humanity."

Church Unveils Lincoln Memorial



—Courier Photo

Unveiling of a memorial plaque telling of Abraham Lincoln's service as an acting judge on the circuit court bench at the time the Logan county circuit court was held temporarily in the original Lincoln Christian church, was held Sunday afternoon with Judge L. B. Stringer, historian, as the principal speaker. Left to right: Paul Coffman, president of the joint board of the church; Ben Leisch and C. W. Routson, members of the Men's club; Judge L. B. Stringer, Rev. Earl C. Hargrove, E. H. Lukenbill, who presided, and Harry Foster, president of the Men's club. The plaque, pictured below, was the gift of the Men's club of the church.



Christened With Melon

Letter Tells New Story of Lincoln Ceremony

Lincoln, Feb. 12 (Staff)

The story of how Abe Lincoln christened the town, Lincoln, with the juice of a watermelon, was revealed by D. F. Nickols, co-author of "Mentor Graham," for the first time today, and substantiated by a letter written by the late John J. Stevens of St. Louis, Mo., who, when 13 years old, was present at the christening and ate part of the watermelon used in the event.

Mr. Nickols, who has long been a student of Lincolniana, a number of years ago learned through Miss Harriet Cantrall, former supervisor of art in the Springfield schools, that her uncle, Mr. Stevens was an eye-witness to the christening of the town by Mr. Lincoln. In an exchange of letters between Judge Stringer and Mr. Stevens, the latter, on April 30, 1926, and at the age of 85 years, related incidents of the historic scene.

There was a sale of the new town site lots on Aug. 29, 1853 and Mr. Stevens wrote, "at the request of the promoters of the enterprise, Mr. Lincoln christened the town site. The christening ceremony was very short. He selected a watermelon from a pile Mr. Snyder had taken from his wagon and covered near a pile of lumber.

Mr. Lincoln stood, and opened the melon with his pocket knife, which reached just well through the rind, and bumped the melon on the lumber. He cut out the core, squeezed the water into a tincup, saying, "Gentlemen: I am requested by the proprietors of this

town site to christen it. I have selected the juice of a melon for that purpose, pouring it on the ground. Therefore in your presence and hearing I now christen this town site. Its name is "Lincoln," and soon to be named the permanent capital of Logan county. I have also prepared a feast for the occasion."

The feast proceeded, with the trend of conversation directed to the future of Logan county.

Lincoln Review

Feb 13 1946

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1049

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

May 16, 1949

LINCOLN'S LOT IN LINCOLN, ILLINOIS

One day many years ago a young man visiting the library of the Foundation upon being shown an original Lincoln document bearing the name Primm exclaimed, "Why, that man was my great-grandfather." A copy of this document follows:

Charles Cantrall
Emily Cantrall, his wife. } Trespass on the case
vs } Damage \$1000—
John Primm

The clerk of the Sangamon Circuit Court will issue a summons in the above entitled cause.

Lincoln & Herndon, p.f.

August Term Circuit
Sangamon County Ill 1849

The significance of the name Primm in the Lincoln story did not register with the editor of Lincoln Lore until a recent visit to the city of Lincoln, Illinois. Among the many places of historic interest in the county seat of Logan County is a town lot which was once owned by Abraham Lincoln. This piece of ground, on which a building has been erected, was at one time in possession of a man named James Primm, apparently a relative of the above named John Primm.

James Primm was the first clerk of Logan County. He was elected recorder in 1843 and became the Postmaster at Postville. He speculated in land and one of his acquisitions was a house lot in Lincoln which he purchased from Thomas Clark, who had acquired it at the original sale of lots in 1853. The piece of property was known as "Lot number three in block nineteen." It is situated on the south side of the Court House square.

James Primm's land transactions did not turn out as well as anticipated and he found it necessary to negotiate a loan on his many properties, and went to New York for this purpose. While there he became in need of some ready money and found that former Gov. Matteson of Illinois was in the city and solicited him for a loan of \$400. Abraham Lincoln also happened to be in New York at the time and Mr. Matteson suggested that if Mr. Primm could get Mr. Lincoln to go his security he would make the loan. Lincoln signed the note. It is interesting to observe that Mr. Joel Matteson had recently finished building a home said to have cost \$100,000 and he was reputed to have been worth a million at this time.

When the note became due, Primm could not meet the payment of \$400 due the millionaire Matteson. Mr. Lincoln, Mr. Primm's security, took up the note and made the payment necessary. A check which Lincoln drew in favor of Matteson on Aug. 28, 1857 may have been on the Primm note. On March 11, 1858, Primm deeded to Lincoln lot number three in the city of Lincoln to compensate Mr. Lincoln in part at least for his loss.

The payment of the taxes on the lot which amounted to \$2.40 in 1858 reveals one of the most interesting side-lights on Lincoln's easygoing attitude with respect to money matters. The incident was told to Judge Lawrence B. Stringer by Lewis Rosenthal, a personal friend of Mr. Lincoln and the collector of taxes. Mr. Lincoln had come to Rosenthal's office, from which the lot in question could be seen. Lincoln addressed Mr. Rosenthal: "Say, Rosenthal," said he, "isn't that my lot over there?" I told him that "I guessed it was." "Well who put that shed up there?" inquired Mr. Lincoln. "Well," I replied, "a fellow in town here, who had some extra horses, and wanted some temporary stable room, put up that shed,

but the fellow is a good friend of yours.' 'That's all right,' said Mr. Lincoln, 'but that fellow, whoever he is, ought to pay my taxes. He is getting all the benefit out of the lot and I get none.' 'Well,' I replied, 'I know that fellow, Mr. Lincoln, and he won't pay a cent.' 'Well, who is he anyway,' said Mr. Lincoln. 'If you must know, Mr. Lincoln,' I replied, 'I'm the fellow.' Lincoln looked at me a second or two, and with a twinkle in his eye, said, 'Hand over the receipt. I guess I'm in for it.'"

After Lincoln became President, William G. Starkey apparently paid the \$2.00 tax on the lot and he received the following letter from John Hay:

Executive Mansion
Washington, June 8, 1861.

My Dear Sir

The President directs me to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 26th May, containing the Collectors receipt for his last year's tax, and to thank you for your kind thoughtfulness in the matter.

He sends you enclosed to pay for money expended interest etc., \$2.00.

Have the honor to be
Your Obt Servant
John Hay

Wm. G. Starkey Esq.

When Lincoln was assassinated at Washington in 1865, he was still in possession of the lot and it became the property of his heirs. Mary Lincoln in 1874 deeded her interest in the tract to her son Robert, who in turn sold it to David H. Harts.

A word about the naming of the town Lincoln might be timely just here, as there have been some strange stories told about how it came by its illustrious name. It is said to be the only town named for Abraham Lincoln before he became President of the United States. When Lincoln was elected to the Illinois legislature his constituents included people residing in the northeast part of Sangamon County. As chairman of the committee on counties which reported "an act to establish the counties of Menard, Logan and Dane" out of Sangamon, Lincoln virtually became the sponsor for the organization of Logan County. The act was approved on February 15, 1839.

Abraham Lincoln also served as attorney for Logan County in its legal difficulties, and was the personal lawyer for the men who were attempting to establish the new town, anticipating it would become the county seat. The proprietors, Latham, Gillett and Hickox retained Lincoln to draw up the contracts for the land on which the town was to be situated. It was Abraham Lincoln also who prepared the bill for submission to the legislature for the removal of the county seat to the contemplated town site.

It is claimed that the name of the proposed town was left blank in the transcript until it was finally urged by the proprietors that it be named for their legal advisor, Mr. Lincoln, and it was duly entered in the official papers.

Lincoln: Abe Helped Name It

12 Sites Playing Role in His Life to Be Marked

BY HAL FOUST

(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

Lincoln, Ill., March 15—“Nothing named Lincoln, as far as I know, ever amounted to much.”

Who said this? It was a whimsical remark by a lanky lawyer, serving in the state legislature, to three land speculators and promoters for whom he had just drafted a partnership agreement for the development of a town site. The site was to be beside a railroad in the new county of Logan. The date was Aug. 24, 1853.

Abraham Lincoln, a state legislator from Springfield, had been the author of a bill to carve from Sangamon county a new county. It was to be named for another legislator, from Murphysboro, who was the father of Civil war Gen. John A. Logan.

“Let’s name the town for Abe,” suggested one of the promoters at the finish of their business in Lincoln’s Springfield law office.

Hold Auction Sale

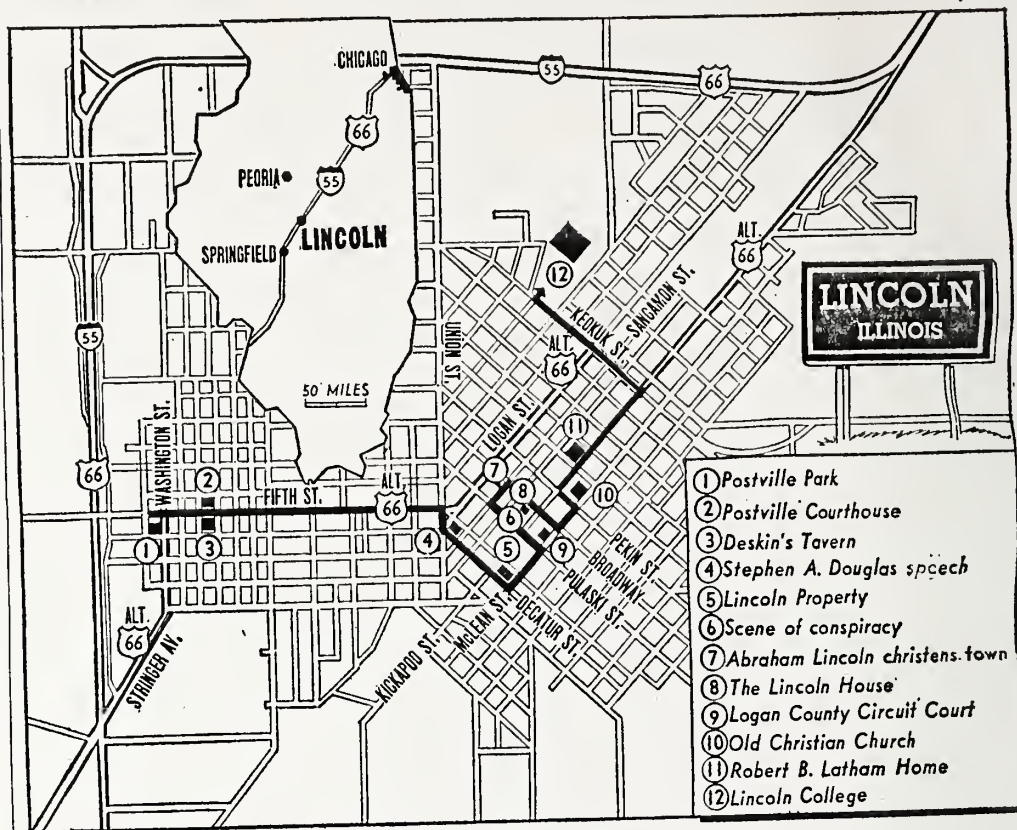
“All right boys, go ahead,” replied the lawyer, according to local history, “but I think you are making a mistake. Nothing named Lincoln, as far as I know, ever amounted to much.”

Three days later, beside the newly completed Chicago and Mississippi railroad, [later the

Alton], and now the Gulf, Mobile and Ohio railroad, Robert Latham, Virgil Hickox, and John D. Gillett held an auction sale of lots in the plotted town-site.

Lincoln attended the sale as attorney for the sellers. He did not buy. He did, however, participate in a mock christening. He bought a watermelon from a farmer’s wagon and with its water baptized the site in his own name, according to accounts accepted by the Illinois Historical society.

This, and 11 other sites associated with Abraham Lincoln, will be posted next week in this city of 17,900 for the guidance of tourists visiting the Land of Lincoln.



Heavy black line on map of Lincoln, Ill., shows route of pilgrimage for tourists, which will be posted with markers (identified in legend) next week.

Clubhouse Marks Site

Across the street from the courthouse replica, a Veterans of Foreign Wars clubhouse is to be marked as the site of Deskin's tavern, where Lincoln and other circuit-riding lawyers stayed with jurors, litigants, witnesses, and sometimes prisoners, when court was in session twice a year.

A street corner is to be marked where Lincoln, after leaving a train on a campaign trip from Bloomington, joined a Democratic political rally in a tent to hear United States Sen. Stephen A. Douglas, his opponent.

Other markers are to be erected at the 1903 Logan

county courthouse, on a site of two previous courthouses, where Lincoln practiced and, where, in March of 1859, he served as a substitute judge; a building housing a women's wear store on a lot Lincoln acquired in 1858 in payment of a debt; and a park where Lincoln played townball [a predecessor of baseball].

Also to be marked are: A tavern where a gang of counterfeiters conspired in 1876, in a plot thwarted at the graveside, to steal the body of Lincoln and hold it as ransom for \$200,000 and for the liberation of imprisoned fellow counterfeiter; the site of Robert B. Latham home, where Lincoln was sometimes a guest; the old Christian church, used as a courthouse for one term in 1857; and the Lincoln college, founded in 1865 and named for the President before his assassination.

CHRISTENING OF LINCOLN

Lincoln, Ill., Feb. 12—Don't forget the town of Lincoln. My grandfather, John Dean Gillett, hired the then unknown Abe Lincoln [a "new young man" from Kentucky] to plat [in 1853] and incorporate [in 1857] a town on land he owned so that the freight trains would stop to load his shorthorn cattle.

Lincoln, who was a lawyer, and my grandfather rode horseback 20 miles north from Springfield to spend the night in grandfather's farm home. My grandmother was enchanted with the courteous and witty guest and said, "John, why not name the town for that nice young man?"

The next morning they rode out about 10 miles. Grandfather and Mr. Lincoln stepped off the blocks for the proposed town—so many paces to a block. Lincoln was tall and grandfather was short—that's why there is a disparity in street block lengths here today.

Farmers gathered around on the day of the christening. Lincoln chose a ripe watermelon from a wagon, smashed it over the wheel of a spring wagon, and christened the town.

This was the first town ever named for Lincoln—by his consent, and long before he became famous.

LEMIRA GILLET HUNT

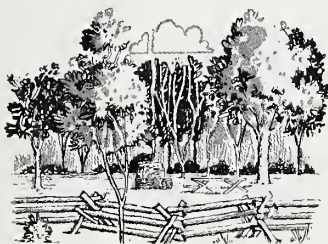
Lincoln

A Brief History Of Lincoln

Mr. Lincoln assisted in the platting of the town in early 1853 . . . And at the request of his many friends here on August 27, 1853 with a watermelon in hand, he ceremoniously walked to a nearby stump — broke the melon — and squeezing the juice on the ground, he christened the new town.

Lincoln, Illinois is the ONLY city of the 26 named for him that was done so with his consent and prior to the era of his term as President. Lincoln is the northern gateway to the Lincoln Heritage Trail and Lincoln Country Tourism Region. The region has abundant opportunities for the visitor to re-live the past.

Postville Park



In 1835 Russell Post, a Baltimore adventurer, laid out the town of Postville which became the first Logan county seat. The town square is now Postville Park. Here Abraham Lincoln and his friends played townball (a predecessor of baseball), threw the maul (a heavy wooden hammer), and pitched horseshoes.

Postville Court House

On this high point in the southwest part of Lincoln was the oldest court house in the Old Eighth Circuit which Abraham Lincoln had traveled for a quarter of a century. Serving a thinly scattered population, the lawyers of Lincoln's time had to ride the circuit to make a living. Here may be seen many



Near this site Abraham Lincoln, November 21, 1860, while traveling to Chicago, and the Lincoln's funeral train stopped here May 3, 1865, before completing the trip to Springfield, Illinois. President-elect Lincoln spoke here,

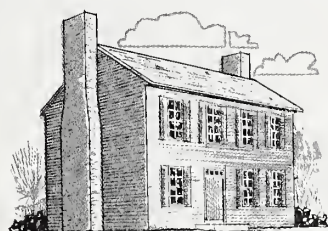
Scene of Conspiracy



In 1876, a gang of counterfeiters plotted to steal Lincoln's body from its tomb in Springfield, Illinois, hoping to be paid a ransom of \$200,000.00, and the freedom on one of their members who was then in the penitentiary. This conspiracy took place above a small inn, located at what is now 412 Pulaski Street.

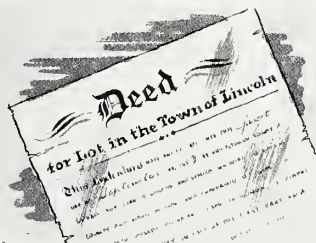
Logan County Circuit Court

On this site stood two former Logan County courthouses in which Abraham Lincoln practiced law from 1856 until elected President. During the March term, 1859, Lincoln substituted for David Davis as the presiding judge of the Logan County Circuit Court.



documents and furnishings of the early 19th century.

Lincoln Property



This site is one of the pieces of property owned by Lincoln in his lifetime. The lot was purchased by Lincoln in 1858 and was held until his death in 1865. This property was known as Lot 3, Original City of Lincoln, and now faces the south side of the square.

VISIT MR. LINCOLN'S LOGAN COUNTY

LOGAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

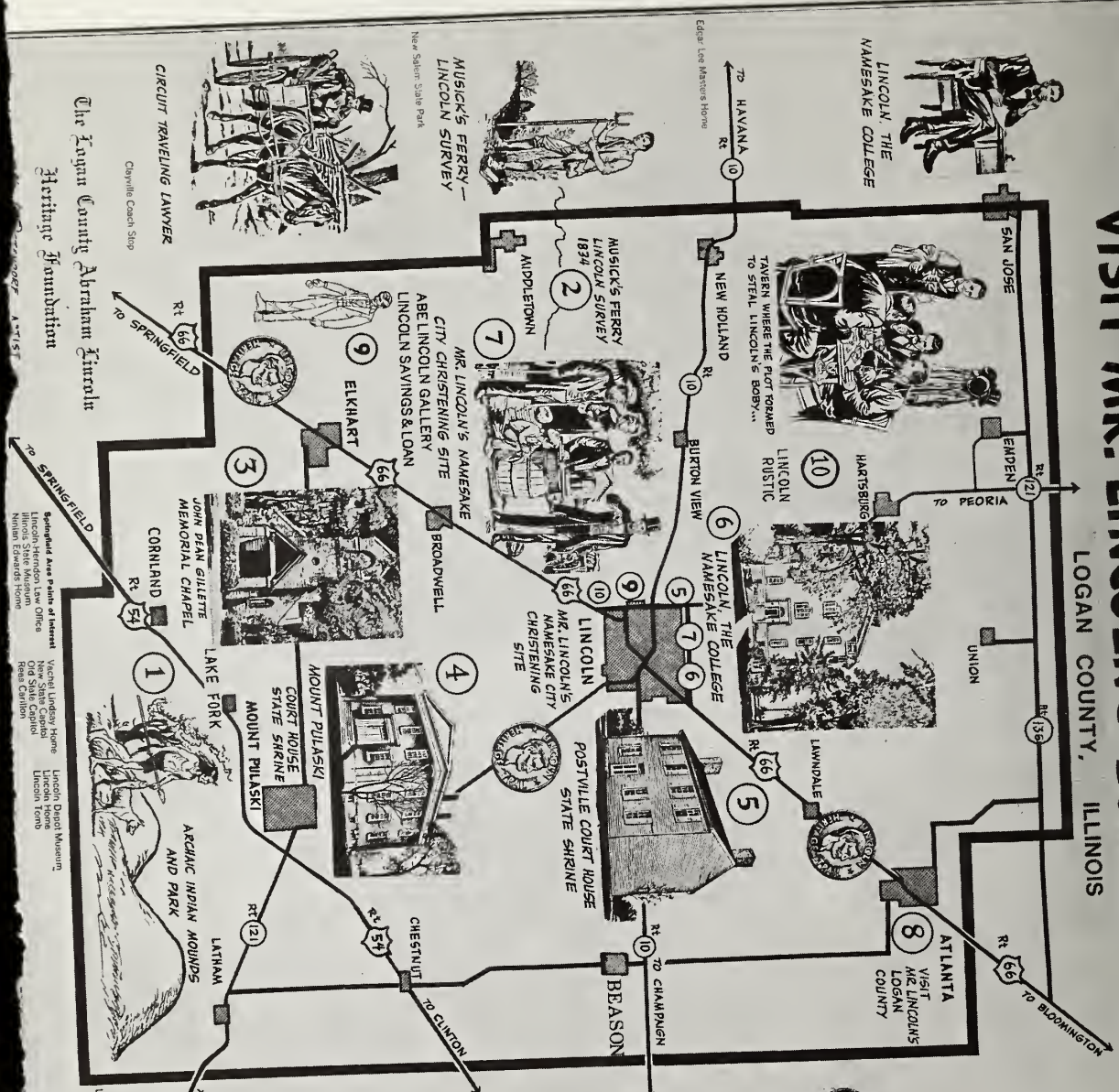
WELCOME TO
LOGAN COUNTY



on the
Heritage Trail

THE LINCOLN LOGAN CIRCUIT

- 1 ARCHAIC INDIAN MOUNDS AND PARK
- 2 MUSICK'S FERRY - LINCOLN SURVEY
- 3 JOHN DEAN GILLETTE MEMORIAL CHAPEL
- 4 MOUNT PILASKI COURT HOUSE - STATE SHRINE
- 5 POSTVILLE COURT HOUSE - STATE SHRINE
- 6 LINCOLN, THE NAMESAKE COLLEGE
- 7 MR. LINCOLN'S NAMESAKE CITY CHRISTENING SITE
- 8 VISIT MR. LINCOLN'S LOGAN COUNTY
- 9 ABEL LINCOLN GALLERY LINCOLN SAVINGS & LOAN
- 10 LINCOLN RUSTIC MINI MUSEUM



LINCOLN, THE
NAMESAKE COLLEGE



NEW HOLLAND
TAVEN WHERE THE PLOT FORMED
TO STEAL LINCOLN'S BODY...

TO HAVANA
Rt. 10

Edgar Lee Martin's Home



MUSICK'S FERRY -
LINCOLN SURVEY

New Salem State Park



CIRCUIT TRAVELING LAWYER

Clayville Coach Stop

The Logan County Abraham Lincoln
Heritage Foundation

Springfield Area Points of Interest
Lincoln-Henderson Law Office
Illinois State Museum
Western Exchange Hotel

Vincennes Lindsey Home
New Salem Cemetery
Reese Children
Lincoln David Museum
Lincoln Tomb



LINCOLN THE YOUNG
SURVEYOR IN LOGAN
COUNTY, 1836.

Lincoln Herkness State Park

Lincoln College

Historic Lincoln College was founded in 1865 as the first and only college named for Abraham Lincoln in his life-time. Visit the historic Lincoln Room, the museum of the Presidency. Thousands of books, manuscripts and historical items are contained in the collection.

Visit Lincoln College Museums

Visitors to the Lincoln College museums are welcome and guides are usually available. The museum office is located just off the lobby of the McKinstry Memorial Library.

The Museums are open daily during the year.

Lincolnia Museum

Because of its direct link with Abraham Lincoln, one of America's greatest sons and presidents, Lincoln College, some years ago, embraced a project in the interest of preserving and collecting historical documents of Lincolnia, Americana, and items related to Presidents of the United States. The College maintains two museums in the McKinstry Memorial Library which attract thousands of students and visitors each year and, by these means, hopes to continually stimulate a vivid interest in American history.

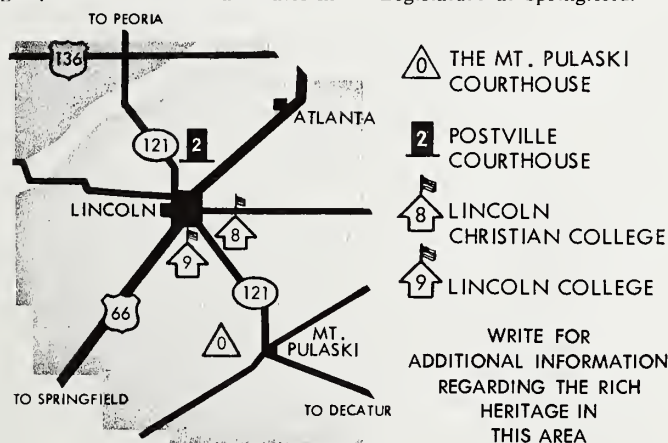
THE LINCOLN COLLECTION now valued at over a quarter of a million dollars was begun in 1942 following the death of Judge Lawrence B. Stringer. Judge Stringer was the county judge of Logan County and his history of the County is considered the finest work on the subject. During his life Judge Stringer assembled a valuable Lincoln collection which he willed to the College to be placed in a special room. Over the years others have followed Judge Stringer's example.

This museum houses and displays more than 2,000 Lincoln volumes.



numerous pamphlets, art, objects d'art and assorted items of historical significance. Notable in the collection is the original Power of Attorney which was drawn up in Lincoln's office and used to found the town of Lincoln, Illinois, and a campaign poster carried in torch light parade in Lincoln and later in

the 1860 nomination parade in Springfield where it won a prize and was reproduced in Leslie's magazine. On display are several signatures of Abraham Lincoln, the table of Menator Graham upon which Lincoln studied, and the desk used by Lincoln in the Illinois State Legislature at Springfield.



GREATER LINCOLN AREA

Mt. Pulaski



**Mt. Pulaski
Court House**

Abraham Lincoln was probably as well acquainted with the Mt. Pulaski Court House as any building in the old Eighth Circuit. This fine brick building, standing today as it did in Lincoln's time, is maintained as one of Illinois' memorials to its most outstanding citizen.

The court house is an excellent example of Greek revival architecture as found in Illinois. Prominent men associated with this historic building include David Davis, Stephen A. Douglas, Robert T. Stuart, Stephen T. Logan, William H. Herndon, James C. Conklin, Milton Hay, Leonard Swett, Asahel Gridley, Lawrence Weldon, Benjamin S. Edwards and a coterie of other brilliant attorneys.

The first Logan County court house was at Postville now in the southwest part of Lincoln. This building was purchased in 1929 by Henry Ford and stands in Greenfield Village at Dearborn, Michigan. The State has reproduced this building on its original site where it stands as a state memorial.

Court sessions were held in Postville between 1840 and 1848. In 1847 the booming town of Mt.

Pulaski, named for Count Casimir Pulaski of Revolutionary War fame, offered a business block and a new building as an inducement to move the county seat. The Mt. Pulaski backers won the resulting election. To build the court house the citizens raised \$2,700 which was supplemented by a county appropriation of \$300.

The court house, which is 70% intact today, served the county until 1853 when the county seat by legislation was moved to Lincoln. This thriving new community was named for the Springfield lawyer who was a trusted friend and attorney of the town's founders.

The Mt. Pulaski Court House was used as a schoolhouse until 1878, then as a city hall and jail, and finally as a post office and headquarters for various town officials. In 1936 it was acquired as a state memorial from the city of Mt. Pulaski and restoration work was

begun.

In the restoration the state removed the partitions put in the building over the years thus giving it its original arrangement, took down the schoolhouse cupola and bell and restored the front door to its original appearance.

On removing the floor on the second story the original floor was found underneath intact with the holes for the spindles used in the judge's stand. On this floor the court and juror rooms are as when the structure was built.

The Mt. Pulaski courtroom saw much of Lincoln who for nearly a quarter of a century rode the circuit, first as a partner of John T. Stuart, later as an associate of Stephen T. Logan, and finally as a senior member of the firm of Lincoln and Herndon, a partnership dissolved by Lincoln's assassination.

One of Mt. Pulaski's leading attorneys was Samuel C. Parks and also associated with him. Parks gathered the cases and Lincoln joined him in the trails. Lincoln had similar associations in other counties.

During most of his career at the bar Lincoln spent nearly half his time away from Springfield riding from county to county, at first on a horse he groomed himself, later in a rig, and trying cases throughout a territory that at one time or another took in the counties of Logan, McLean, Tazewell, DeWitt, Vermilion, Champaign, Woodford, Mason, Sangamon, Christian, Moultrie, Shelby, Edgar and Piatt.

By turn, moody and ebullient, cracking jokes and fraternizing or sitting alone, Lincoln was one of the most popular of the itinerant company of barristers who traveled the circuit.

The restored courtroom



VISIT
MR. LINCOLN'S
HISTORIC . . .



**LOGAN
COUNTY
ILLINOIS**

FEATURING . . .

- 15 HISTORIC SITES
- CAMPGROUNDS
- MOTELS — PARKS
- & OTHER MARKED SITES

**VISIT
MR. LINCOLN'S
HISTORIC . . .**



**LOGAN
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FEATURING . . .

- 15 HISTORIC SITES
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- & OTHER MARKED SITES

LOGAN COUNTY HISTORIC SITES

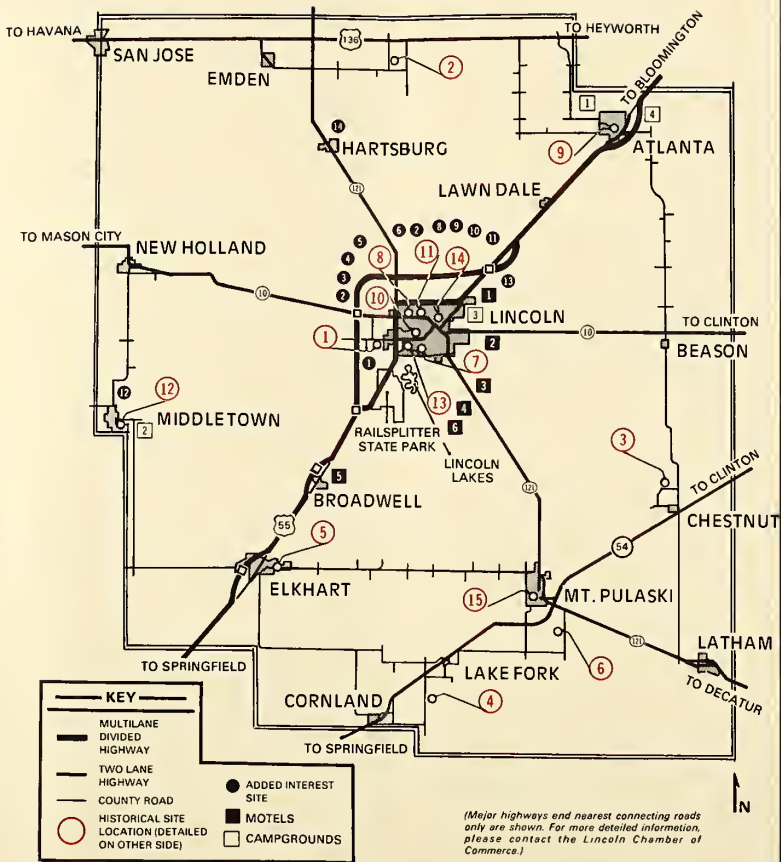
- ① KICKAPOO TOWN
- ② BETHEL CHURCH
- ③ BAKERVILLE
- ④ BRYSON INDIAN MOUNDS
- ⑤ THE JOHN DEAN GILLETT
MEMORIAL CHAPEL ON
ELKHART HILL
- ⑥ ROBT. BUCKLES ROUND BARN
- ⑦ STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS SITE
- ⑧ LINCOLN COLLEGE - LINCOLN MUSEUM
- ⑨ ATLANTA PUBLIC LIBRARY
- ⑩ THE CHRISTENING SCENE
OF LINCOLN, ILLINOIS
- ⑪ LINCOLN COLLEGE
- ⑫ STAGECOACH INN
IN MIDDLETOWN
- ⑬ POSTVILLE COURTHOUSE
- ⑭ LOGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE
- ⑮ MT. PULASKI COURTHOUSE

LINCOLN NEVER LIVED HERE, BUT LEFT A LOT OF TRACKS

1. He christened our town Lincoln when Letham, Hickox, and Gillett wanted to name it after him.
 2. He owned property here
 3. He loaned money on farmland here
 4. The Mt. Puleski Courthouse was on the 8th Judicial Circuit where Lincoln practiced law
 5. He surveyed the town of 'Albany' here in 1835. Located in Broadwell Township (paper town).
 6. Lincoln College was named after him on his last living birthday
 7. His funeral train stopped here
 8. The Lincoln "wide awakes" were organized in Atlanta when he was nominated for President.
 9. Rustic Tavern site - scene of conspiracy to rob his grave
 10. The Lincoln College Museum has over 2,500 books and memorabilia tracing his steps through sites, events, and buildings
 11. He had a host of friends here who knew him well.
- *Take a ½ million dollar walking tour through some of Mr. Lincoln's Heritage

AND OF ADDED INTEREST . . .

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| ① Lincoln Public Library | 725 Pekin, Lincoln |
| ② Judge Stephen Foley House | 427 Tremont, Lincoln |
| ③ Lincoln Courthouse Square
Historic District | Lincoln |
| ④ The Lincoln House | 501 Broadway, Lincoln |
| ⑤ Logan County Circuit Court | Courthouse, Lincoln |
| ⑥ Deskins Tavern | 5th & Madison, Lincoln |
| ⑦ Abraham Lincoln and
Lincoln, Illinois | Broadway & Sangamon, Lincoln |
| ⑧ Postville Park | 5th & Washington, Lincoln |
| ⑨ Lincoln Property | 523 Puleski, Lincoln |
| ⑩ Scene of Conspiracy | 412 Puleski, Lincoln |
| ⑪ Old Christian Church | Pekin St. Perking Lot, Lincoln |
| ⑫ Middletown | Middletown Square |
| ⑬ Lincoln Public Library | 725 Pekin, Lincoln |
| ⑭ Scully Prairie | Hertsburg |



(Major highways end nearest connecting roads only are shown. For more detailed information, please contact the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce.)

1 KICKAPOO TOWN



The Kickapoo's moved into Central Illinois from the Great Lakes area in 1763. Their main village was at Salt Creek. While on a hunting expedition in Kentucky, they captured Ann Gilham and 3 of her children in 1790. They were eventually ransomed by her husband James Ann Gilham obtained a grant of 160 acres from Congress in 1815 as an honorable testimonial of the suffering and hardship.

6 ROBT. BUCKLES ROUND BARN



Section 25, Mt. Pulaski Twp.

Built in 1917 at cost of \$11,000.00. It's one of the remaining and only one constructed with glazed tile. The barn is 60 ft. in diameter, with a height of 66 ft. On the National Register of Historic Places since 1983. Presently owned by descendant Richard Cannon and tenanted by his son, Charles.

11 LINCOLN COLLEGE



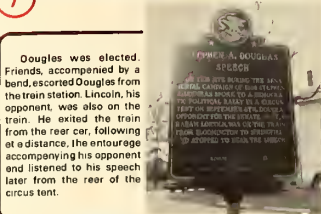
Lincoln College was founded and named for President Lincoln on February 12, 1865. The cornerstone for University Hall was laid on this day. The building is now a National Historic landmark. On the campus is the Merrill Gage statue of Lincoln the Student.

2 BETHEL CHURCH



The Bethel Society was originally a branch of the "Old Sugar Creek Congregation" located to the East. Built in 1854. "Big Prairie" post office was located 1/4 mile East of the present church. Bethel grade school still stands across the road from the church. Burials are still made in the cemetery adjoining the church.

7 STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS SITE



Douglas was elected. Friends, accompanied by a band, escorted Douglas from the train station. Lincoln, his opponent, was also on the train. He exited the train from the rear car, following at a distance, the entourage accompanying his opponent and listened to his speech later from the rear of the circus tent.

12 STAGECOACH INN IN MIDDLETOWN



Make your way to the oldest town in Logan County, established October 13, 1832, by Hiram S. Allen on the Fort Clark Road, from Sangamo town to Fort Clark. The Stagecoach Inn, being renovated as a museum, was erected in 1837, according to Judge Lawrence Stringer. The oldest brick building in the country believed to have been built in 1840, still stands. At one time, there were 2 trace tracks here. Musick's Ferry was located on Salt Creek 1 1/2 miles North.

3 BAKERVILLE



Sam Baker located his grist mill, saw mill, and brick-tile factory on Salt Creek a mile North of Chastnut. His family had moved from the Yanketown settlement (2 miles SW) during the Civil War. The chimney and some of the clay pits remain.

8 LINCOLN COLLEGE - LINCOLN MUSEUM



Lincoln College maintains two museums in the McKinstry Library. The Lincoln Museum which houses the Abraham Lincoln collection valued at over a quarter of a million dollars, houses and displays over 2,000 Lincoln volumes, manuscripts, art and related items of historical interest.

The Museum of Presidents is designed to honor the Chief Executives from Washington to the present day.

13 POSTVILLE COURTHOUSE



Built in 1841, was Logan County's first Courthouse. It was built in Postville, the town. Deskins Tavern, across the street South, was the headquarters for lawyers, jurors, witnesses, and litigants in the early days. Subsequent Courthouses were in Mt. Pulaski and finally in downtown Lincoln. The original structure was purchased by Henry Ford and moved to Dearborn, Michigan. Postville Courthouse is now a State Shrine with hours from 9:00-5:00 daily.

4 BRYSON INDIAN MOUNDS



Section 6, Mt. Pulaski Twp.

This location once overlooked a lake and swamp area. The Indian Mounds are on the North Bank. The old Lake Fork Bad has been drained for farming. Several Indian cultures have been found here. The site is privately owned.

9 ATLANTA PUBLIC LIBRARY



Step back in history and enjoy numerous artifacts of the area in the Atlanta Public Library and Museum on Race St. and the museum annex which housed Logan County's first bank. Hours: Tues. & Sat 12:30-4:30.

14 LOGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE



The third courthouse built on this site since 1853. Houses County offices and records, civil war memorial, statues of Lincoln, murels, plus historical display cases. This building erected in 1905.

5 THE JOHN DEAN GILLETT MEM. CHAPEL ON ELKHART HILL



The Chapel, built by Mrs. Gillett in memory of her husband, is the only privately owned, self-supporting Church in the State. JOHN DEAN GILLETT became known as the "CATTLE KING OF THE WORLD" because of his breeding of Shorthorn cattle. He was a close personal friend of Lincoln, as was his son-in-law, Governor Richard J. Oglesby, who was elected Governor of Illinois in 1864, 1872 and 1884. Gillett and Oglesby are both buried in Elkhart Cemetery. Gillett owned 16,000 acres of good farmland at his death.

ADAM H. BOGAROUS won the title, "Wing shot champion of the World", in London, England. Captain Bogardus later travelled with the BUFFALO BILL, CODY'S WILD WEST SHOW and others as well as with a Mississippi river boat show. He is credited with romanticizing trap shooting. He is also buried on Elkhart Hill.

10 THE CHRISTENING SCENE OF LINCOLN, ILLINOIS



On August 27, 1853, the first lots were sold in the new town of Lincoln, Illinois. The town was located on the Chicago and Alton Railroad line midway between Bloomington and Springfield.

After all the lots had been sold, the crowd urged Springfield Attorney, Abraham Lincoln to christen the new town which had been named in his honor. Lincoln took a watermelon, broke it open, and with its juice christened the new community.

Lincoln, Illinois thus became the first community in the United States to be named Lincoln and was named by Lincoln himself.

15 MT. PULASKI COURTHOUSE



Built in 1847. Served as County Courthouse until 1853. One of two original courthouses on Lincoln's 8th Judicial Circuit. Has been since used as schoolhouse, city hall, jail, and finally as post office. Purchased by state and restored. On National Register of Historical Places. Open daily 9:00-5:00.

AND FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE . . .

CAMPGROUNDS

- 1 HICKORY LANE CAMPING & FISHING
R.R. #2, Atlanta, IL 61723
466-2778
- 2 ROCKY HORSE CAMPGROUND
R.R. #1, Middletown, IL 62666
732-2903

- 3 CAMP-A-WHILE
Nicholson Rd., Lincoln, IL 62656
732-4366

- 4 CAMP GRIESHEIM CHRISTIAN RETREAT CENTER
R.R. #1, Atlanta, IL 61723
646-2967

MOTELS

- 1 CROSSROADS MOTEL
1305 Woodlawn Rd., Lincoln, IL 62656
(217) 735-5571
- 2 HOLIDAY INN
2011 N. Kickapoo St., Lincoln, IL 62656
(217) 735-1202

- 3 LINCOLN COUNTRY INN
1750 Film St., Lincoln, IL 62656
(217) 732-9961
- 4 LINCOLN MOTEL
918 Woodlawn Rd., Lincoln, IL 62656
(217) 732-2154

- 5 PIONEER'S REST MOTEL
Broadway, IL 62623
(217) 732-2303
- 6 REWOOD MOTEL
R.R. #1, Lincoln, IL 62656
(217) 732-4113

LOGAN COUNTY AND MR. LINCOLN

Located in the shadows of Springfield and Lincoln's New Salem, Logan County remains as an emerging reminder that Lincoln, the man, had a profound influence on the area.

During his term in the Illinois Legislature he was instrumental in dividing what was then Sangamon County into 3 additional counties, one being Logan. He named it after his good friend, John A. Logan. His first survey employment was at Musick's Ferry on Kickapoo Creek located 1½ miles north of Middletown for purpose of laying out the Peoria road. He plotted "Albany" in 1836. He was present at the sale of lots in Middletown in 1833. He christened Lincoln, Illinois August 27, 1853 with the juice of a watermelon. He later owned a lot in Lincoln across from the present Courthouse. The Rustic Tavern was scene of plot to rob Lincoln's grave in Oak Ridge Cemetery to raise money to free a friend of the conspirators. His many years as judge on the 8th Judicial Circuit resulted in a host of lasting friendships with the common man. Here he formed his political base.

A little known fact is that Eastern investors platted 10 towns in Logan County and sold some lots in each case in the early 1830's. All these towns failed within five years.



For additional information on Festival
and year-round activities contact:

LOGAN COUNTY TOURISM BUREAU

at The Lincoln/Logan County

Chamber of Commerce

601 Pekin St.

Lincoln, IL 62656

Phone: (217) 735-2385



In Cooperation with the

Illinois

Department of Commerce and Community Affairs

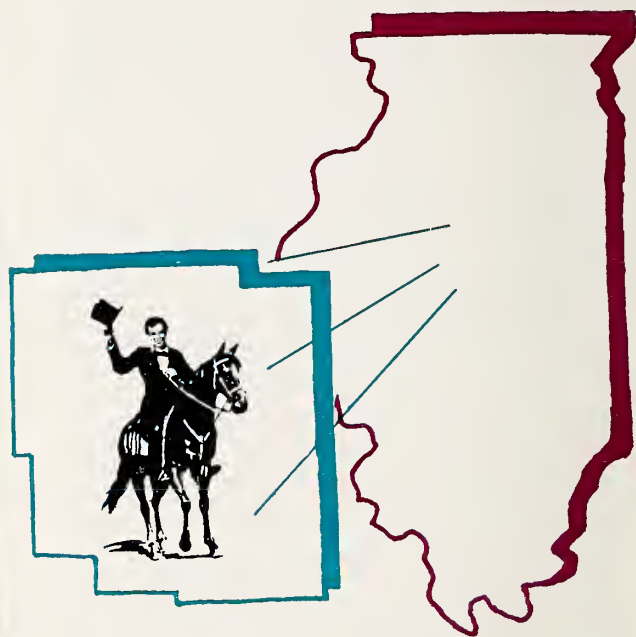
Office of Tourism

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1989
Historic
Logan County
Illinois

1839 150 YEARS OLD 1989



Abraham Lincoln Tourism Bureau
of Logan County

601 Pekin Street
Lincoln, Illinois 62656
(217) 735-2385

In Cooperation with the

Illinois

Department of Commerce and Community Affairs
Office of Tourism

2-89-6M

Historic
Lincoln &
Logan Co.
ILLINOIS



The
Starting Place

Historic
Lincoln &
Logan Co.
ILLINOIS



The
Starting Place

Lincoln

Centrally located between Springfield and Bloomington on Interstate-55, between Decatur and Peoria on Route 121. West from Champaign-Urbana on Route 10.

Population: 16,327

Founded: 1853

Historical interest: Abe Lincoln christened his namesake city with the juice of a watermelon near the site of the Lincoln Train Depot, where a monument commemorates the ceremony. Other sites of historic significance in Lincoln include the Logan County Courthouse, erected in 1905, the location of county offices and records, Civil War memorials, the National Register of Historic Places, the Merrill Gage Statue of Lincoln the Student, and the Lincoln Museum in the McKinstry Library; the Lincoln Rustic, where a conspiracy developed to steal Lincoln's body from Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield; the Postville Courthouse, replica of the two-story frame building that served as the County Seat and site of the Eighth Judicial Circuit on which Abraham Lincoln served as a member of the traveling bar; the Lincoln Gallery of Lloyd Ostendorf oil paintings depicting Lincoln's life in Logan County, Washington, D.C., and Gettysburg.

Other attractions: Unique downtown specialty shops and boutiques surrounding the Logan County Courthouse square; the Lincoln Depot Restaurant in the renovated train station and other outstanding eating establishments; residential and business streetscapes rich in architectural heritage; Lincoln College's Little Gallery; the Maple Club Dinner Theatre in the beautifully restored 1930s dance hall; the Heritage-in-Flight Museum at the Logan County Airport; an 18-hole golf course, tennis courts, and trails for hiking, jogging, biking and skiing in nearby Kickapoo Creek and Railsplitter State Parks.

Special events: The National Railsplitting Festival (September); Logan County Fair (August); Lincoln Arts Festival and Watermelon Days (August); Air Event (September); Lincoln Community Theatre (summer); college productions and Lincoln Area Music Society concerts (seasonal).

Lawndale

On Interstate-55 between Lincoln and Atlanta

Population: 165

Founded: Unincorporated, but laid out and plotted in 1854.

Historical interest: Site of old saw mill

Atlanta

Between Lincoln and Bloomington on Interstate-55

Population: 1,807

Founded: 1853

Historical interest: Atlanta Public Library (octagonal building on National Register) and Museum, housing numerous area artifacts.

Special events: Annual Memorial Day Celebration; Atlanta Fall Festival.

Beason

Southeast of Atlanta on Route 6; off Route 10 between Lincoln and Clinton

Population: 225

Founded: 1872

Historical interest: Laid out by Silas Beason and others on newly completed line of the Havana, Lincoln and Eastern (now Illinois Central branch) railroad

Chestnut

South of Beason on Route 6; on Route 54 between Mt. Pulaski and Clinton

Population: 350

Founded: 1872

Historical interest: Bakerville, a brick factory

Latham

On Route 121 between Mt. Pulaski and Decatur

Population: 564

Founded: 1872

Historical interest: Latham Opera House

Mt. Pulaski

On Route 121 between Lincoln and Decatur

Population: 1,783

Founded: 1836

Historical interest: Named for Count Casimir Pulaski, Polish Revolutionary War patriot; Abraham Lincoln Memorial (also known as Mt. Pulaski) Courthouse; home of "First Lady of Radio," Vaughn DeLeath; on route of first race between steam train and Wright brothers airplane; Old Settlers Reunions; Capps Park; Windmill Co.; Robert Buckles Round Barn nearby.

Special events: Lincoln Birthday and Pulaski Birthday open houses; Count Pulaski Day; 4th of July Celebration; Fall Festival.

Lake Fork

On Route 54 between Springfield and Mt. Pulaski

Population: 100

Founded: 1881

Historical interest: Nearby Bryson Indian Mounds

Cornland

On Route 54 southwest of Lake Fork

Population: 150

Founded: Laid out and surveyed in 1871

Historical interest: Every building damaged or destroyed by a tornado April 19, 1927.

Other attractions: Church windows

Elkhart

On Interstate-55 between Broadwell and Springfield

Population: 493

Founded: 1855

Historical interest: Elkhart Hill site of first white settlement in this section of Illinois; home of John Dean Gillett, "Cattle King of America"; Captain Adam H. Bogardus, "Wing Shot Champion"; John Dean Gillett Memorial Chapel (St. John the Baptist Chapel), Elkhart Cemetery; Elkhart Hill; Governor Richard J. Oglesby's tomb; only privately owned bridge over public road.

Broadwell

On Interstate-55 between Lincoln and Elkhart

Population: 183

Founded: Incorporated 1869, reorganized under general law 1887

Historical interest: Site of Tan-Ti-Vy, popular country fairgrounds in early 1900s.

Middletown

On the west side of Logan County, south of New Holland

Population: 503

Founded: October 13, 1832

Historical interest: Oldest town in Logan County; first brick business building (1840?) in county still standing; plane built by Wright brothers, Vin Fiz, landed during first coast-to-coast flight across U.S. (1911); Charles Lindbergh visited while flying mail route (1926); site of Lafayette Post Home; Daniel Webster addressed school students (1837); Glenn Opera House; stagecoach stop on Peoria-Springfield Road; Stagecoach Inn Museum; center of horse trading and racing; five hot-air balloon world records set here.

Special events: Stage Coach Inn Spring Festival; Middletown Historical Arts and Crafts Fair.

New Holland

On Route 10 between Lincoln and Mason City

Population: 295

Founded: 1875

Historical interest: Clause in original deed says no saloon could be operated here; old village jail was made into public library (called "Books & Crooks").

San Jose

In northwestern corner of Logan County, on Route 136.

Population: 784

Founded: 1857, incorporated 1876

Historical interest: Once known as "littlest railroad center" in the U.S.; last train went through in 1960.

Emden

On County Road 20, just south of Route 136 and west of Route 121. Northwest of Hartsburg.

Population: 527

Founded: 1872

Historical interest: Named for Emden, Germany, former home of many of its immigrants; Teis Smid, a key settler, invented the plow and sold it to John Deere; preserved Illinois Central depot; Community House; Hardware Company; Bethel Church.

Special events: Homecoming (July)

Hartsburg

Junction of Route 121 and County Road 18, between Lincoln and Emden.

Population: 379

Founded: 1872

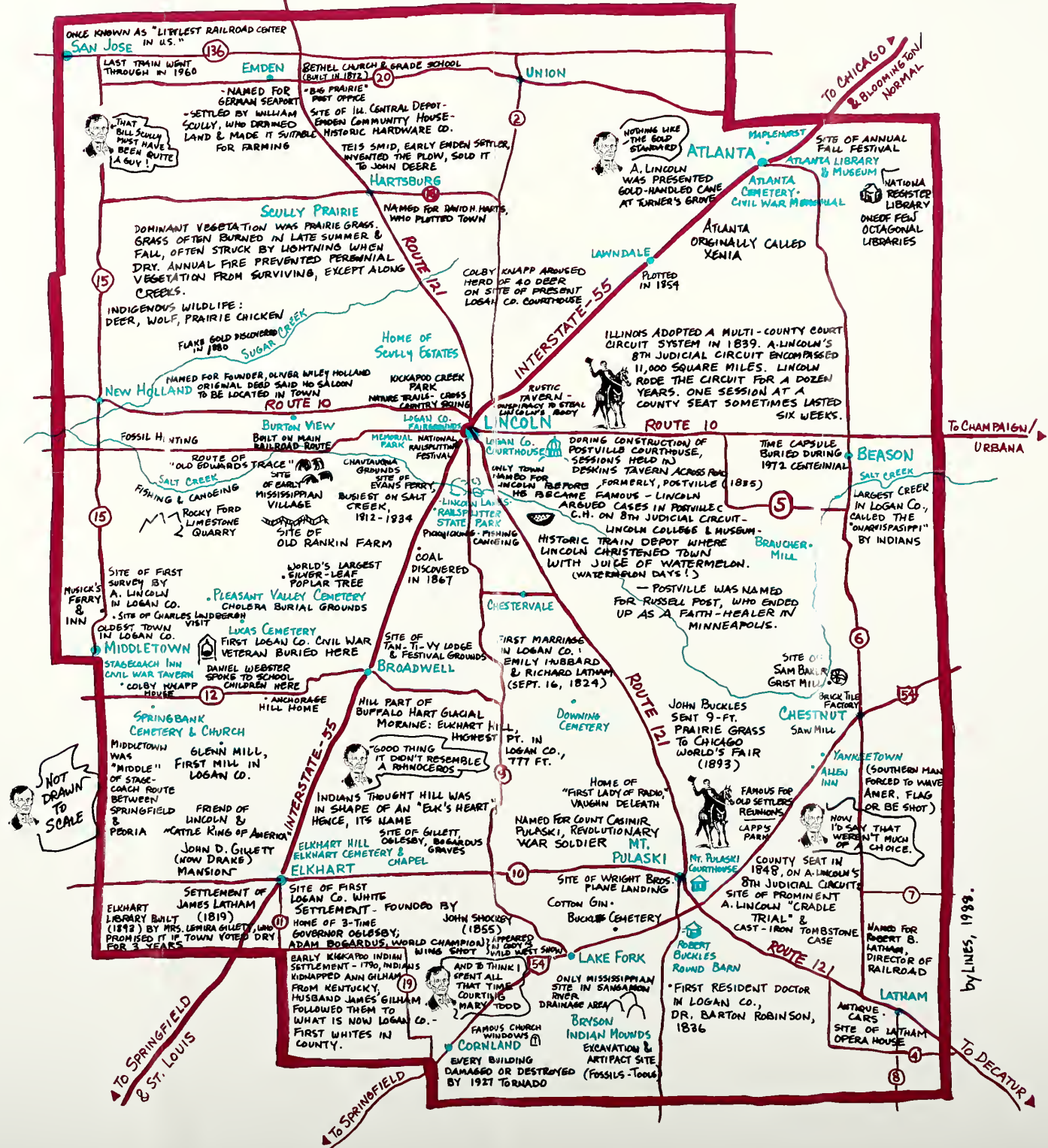
Other attractions: Scully Prairie

Historic Logan County

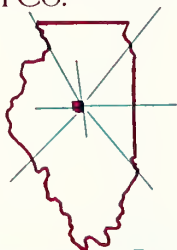
NAMED FOR
DR. JOHN LOGAN,
FRIEND OF A. LINCOLN

FORMED FROM
PORTION OF
SANGAMON COUNTY
IN 1839

622 SQUARE MILES • 396,192 ACRES OF FARMLAND
146 MILES OF RIVERS & STREAMS
POPULATION - 31,802



Historic Lincoln & ILLINOIS Logan Co.



The Starting Place

Logan County is the starting place for visiting historic sites and other attractions in central Illinois. From Lincoln and Logan County it is an easy drive to the Lincoln sites in Springfield and New Salem . . . to Peoria's historic Illinois River attractions . . . to the Indian lore at Dickson Mounds . . . to Bloomington-Normal, Decatur, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

No other community has such an interesting Lincoln heritage . . . and is so accessible to the rest of Lincoln Land and central Illinois.



Abraham Lincoln Tourism Bureau
of Logan County

601 Pekin Street - Lincoln, Illinois 62656
217-735-2385

In Cooperation with the

Illinois

Department of Commerce and Community Affairs
Office of Tourism

1989

Historic Logan County Illinois

1839 150 YEARS OLD 1989



Abraham Lincoln Tourism Bureau
of Logan County

601 Pekin Street
Lincoln, Illinois 62656
(217) 735-2385

In Cooperation with the

Illinois

Department of Commerce and Community Affairs
Office of Tourism

February 9:

Logan County Sesquicentennial Dinner, Genealogical and Historical Society will host a dinner at Masonic Temple in Lincoln, IL (2022 N. Kickapoo). Call (217) 735-4633 for more information.

February 11:

Open House to commemorate Abraham Lincoln's Birthday at the Mt. Pulaski Courthouse State Historic Site, Mt. Pulaski, IL. (217) 7328930.

February 12 to March 31:

Lincoln Images. An exhibit lighting 24 images of Abraham Lincoln from his first 1846 to his last in 1865. Postville Courthouse, 914 5th Street, Lincoln, IL (217) 735-2385.

March 4:

Casimir Pulaski Birthday Open House. Mt. Pulaski Courthouse Historic Site. An open house to commemorate the Polish American Hero, Casimir Pulaski, with special program at 2:00 p.m. and again in the evening. (217) 735-8930.

March 6:

Annual Count Pulaski Day. Celebration American Legion Home. Polish Dinner and dancing to the John Stuppor Polka Band. Mt. Pulaski, IL.

April 2:

Middletown Stagecoach Inn Festival. Lunch will be served. Historical exhibits will be on display at the Middletown-New Holland Middletown Middle School, Middletown, IL. (217) 445-2665.

April 16 to 30:

Quilt show, Postville Courthouse, 914 5th St., Lincoln, IL. Quilts will be on display. Eighth annual, with approximately 25, old and new, pieced, appliqued and embroidered quilts. (217) 735-2385.

April 27, 28, 29, 30:

Middletown Homecoming. Entertainment, car show, parade, carnival, and food. Come participate in the fun-filled weekend. For information call (217) 968-7043 or (217) 445-2665.

April 28, 29, 30:

Country Peddler, Logan County Fairgrounds. Seventh annual show, features ninety folk artists, exhibiting handcrafted fold art, including furniture, pottery, crafts, paintings, chairs, ornaments, duck decoys, checkerboards, and woven goods. (217) 735-2385.

May 20:

Fiber Jubilee, Postville Courthouse, 914 5th St., Lincoln, IL. Demonstrations showing the process of raw fiber to finished product. Natural dyeing, carding, spinning, and weaving with natural fibers such as wool, angora, linen, cotton, mohair and silk. (217) 732-8930.

May 20:

Memorial Day Celebration in Atlanta, IL. 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A one day event to honor Veterans. Family activities, games, and prizes. Downtown Atlanta. (217) 648-2764.

June 17

Logan County Historical Tour. This tour is an annual event in Logan County. It gets bigger every year. One part of the county is covered thoroughly each year in air conditioned Motorcoaches with a tour guide on each bus. For more information call the Tourism Bureau at (217) 735-2385.

June 23-24:

Blue Grass Festival, Logan County Fairgrounds, Business Rt. I-55. Blue Grass Bands entertain with stage shows and jam sessions. (816) 665-7172.

June 4 to July 4:

Lincoln and the Family, Postville Courthouse, 914 Fifth St. An exhibit of images of the Abraham Lincoln family including Mary Todd, Robert, William, and Thomas.

July 4:

Fireworks, Lincoln Recreation Center, Lincoln, IL. At dusk.

July 4:

Fireworks in Mt. Pulaski. City Park, South Spring, at dusk.

July 4:

Fireworks in Atlanta. Ball Diamond, at dusk.

July 14, 15, 16:

Elkhart Homecoming, Elkhart, IL (217) 947-2323.

August 1-6:

Logan County Fair, Logan County Fairgrounds, Lincoln, IL. 4-H judging, open class, carnival, food, horse races, nightly shows, demolition derby, queen contest. (217) 732-3311.

August 25, 26, 27:

Goldwing Honda Motorcyclists, Logan County Fairgrounds. Parade on Saturday.

August 27:

Summer Craft Fair, Postville Courthouse, 914 Fifth St., Lincoln, IL. The craft fair will highlight demonstrations of 1800's crafts including wood working, spinning, weaving, black powder shooting and period music. Many of the items made will be for sale. (217) 735-2385.

August 26-27:

Lincoln Arts Festival, Latham Park, Lincoln, IL. Includes art show, pottery, and woven clothing. A children's only booth with prices under \$5. Watermelon Days include merchant sales in downtown Lincoln. (217) 735-2385.

September 4:

Air Event, Logan County Airport. Fifth annual show, parachutists, flying demonstrations, static display warbirds, airplane rides, food and other concessions, museum of Air History. (217) 732-7685.

September 11-12:

Mt. Pulaski Fall Festival. On the square in Mt. Pulaski, carnival, parade, free entertainment, food. (217) 792-3222.

September 16-17:

Atlanta Fall Festival, Atlanta City Park, Parade, carnival, full meal dinners by local organizations each evening. Food, drawings, free entertainment nightly.

September 16-17:

Nineteenth annual Abraham Lincoln National Railsplitter Contest and Crafts Festival. Logan County Fairgrounds, Business Rt. I-55. Railsplitting contest, \$750 first prize; flea market, hand-crafted folk art, steam engines, free parking, attendance prizes, entertainment, contests, food. (217) 732-4795.

September 23-24:

New Holland Homecoming. New Holland, IL, downtown. Parade, food, queen crowning, dance, free entertainment.

November 4:

Needs and Goals (NAGS) bazaar, Elkhart, IL (217) 947-2323.

November 30:

Christmas Parade, 10:00 a.m., downtown Lincoln. Floats, bands, walking entries, prizes awarded. (217) 735-2385.

December 2:

Christmas Open House, Mt. Pulaski Courthouse. Experience an 1850's Christmas with special program at 2:00 p.m. and seasonal music at night when the courthouse will be illuminated by candles. (217) 732-8930.

December 10:

Christmas Craft Fair, Postville Courthouse, State Historic Site. The craft fair will show demonstrations of 1800's and seasonal crafts such as wheat weaving, wood working, spinning, and more. Many of the items will be for sale. During the craft fair there will be seasonal music. (217) 732-8930.

NOTE THE FOLLOWING CORRECTIONS

Country Peddler - May 5,6,7

Memorial Day - Atlanta - May 29

Atlanta Fall Fest - 9/14-16

Christmas Parade - 7:00 P.M.

To have events listed in the next calendar: Write or call, **ABRAHAM TOURISM BUREAU OF LOGAN COUNTY**, 601 Pekin St., Lincoln, IL 62656. (217) 735-2385.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information contained in this publication. However, if an error has been made, the Tourism Bureau regrets any inconvenience cause by such errors and invites corrections.

At publication time, dates and times of events printed were accurate. If traveling long distances, we suggest you call ahead to verify hours and dates.

ON GOING EVENTS

Postville Courthouse is a reproduction of the first Logan County Courthouse which was in use from 1840 to 1847. During this period Abraham Lincoln served as a lawyer on the Eighth Judicial Circuit which held semi-annual sessions at the Courthouse. The town of Postville was mapped out in 1835 and became the first Logan County seat in 1839. The county seat was moved to Mt. Pulaski in 1848, and in 1865 the boundaries of the city of Lincoln completely enveloped Postville. The main floor of the Courthouse contains an exhibit which introduces visitors to the Eighth Judicial Circuit. The second floor contains a courtroom and county office furnished to the 1840's period.

Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Closed: Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

Directions: Postville Courthouse is located in Lincoln, Illinois. From I55, take Lincoln Exit 126 (State Route 10), at first stoplight turn south, to next stoplight (Fifth Street) turn east, and proceed five blocks to site.

Mount Pulaski Courthouse, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is one of only two surviving Eighth Judicial Circuit courthouses in Illinois. From 1848 to 1855 the Courthouse served as the second Logan County Courthouse. The first floor contains six offices used by county officials and the second floor has the courtroom in which Abraham Lincoln, as a lawyer, visited when court was in session. The Courthouse has been restored and furnished to its original 1850's appearance.

Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Closed: Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day

Directions: Mount Pulaski Courthouse is located on the City Square in Mount Pulaski, Illinois. From State Route 54, exit right on State Route 121, to historical marker at DeKalb Street, left of DeKalb four blocks to Vine Street, turn left two blocks to Jefferson, turn right and travel two blocks to City Square.

Lincoln College Museum, located on the college campus. Open 1:30 — 4:00. It houses a quarter of a million dollars of Abraham Lincoln memorabilia. The museum of the Presidents is designed as an impressive shrine honoring the men from George Washington to the present who have served as the chief executive of the United States. Lincoln College was the first college in the country to be named for Abraham Lincoln. University Hall, the first building on campus, still stands and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

OASIS Senior Citizens Center, 501 Pulaski, Lincoln, IL. Open 9:00-4:00. Closed Saturday and Sunday. All seniors are welcome. A gift shop is open to anyone. Offered are card games, pool, bingo, crafts. Blood pressure can be taken. Walk ins welcome.

Atlanta Museum. Open Tuesday-Saturday, 12:30 - 4:30. This museum depicts Atlanta and area from as far back as most can remember. It displays what any small town could do if they put forth the effort. It houses family remembrances of businesses, organizations, farming, etc. It has all the former Atlanta High School pictures, trophies, etc. The museum annex continues on with a law office, old bank vault, service men and women's uniforms and much more.

Lincoln Library on the National Register. Hours are 10 to 8 Monday through Thursday, Friday, 10 to 6 and Saturday 9 to 3. The library grant was only the sixth of the Carnegie grants in Illinois. The library is probably the oldest intact Carnegie library still in use in Illinois. Other libraries in Logan County are in Atlanta, Elkhart, Mt. Pulaski, and Williamsville.

A downtown Lincoln walking tour is available by contacting the Tourism office at 601 Pekin or calling 735-2385. Much of the downtown area is on the National Register of Historic Places. These tours are free.

IT IS ALWAYS WISE TO CALL AHEAD TO SEE IF SCHEDULES OR UNKNOWN PROBLEMS HAVE ARISEN FOR ANY EVENT YOU ARE INTERESTED IN.

HOME

Forget what you may have heard.
Men still aren't doing much
housework.....page 14

BOOKS

A new book details the corrupt
ways of Chicago's thieves in black
robes.....page 16



RELIGION

Televangelists find
viewers — and funds
— declining.....page 17



The Logan County Courthouse on the square in Lincoln.

THE CITY OF LINCOLN

A town rich in history looks to the future

by Doug
Pokorski
Photos by
David
Klobucar

LINCOLN — There's an oft-told story — apparently true — that when a group of 19th-century land speculators decided to name a town they were planning after their friend and lawyer, Abraham Lincoln, Lincoln advised them against the idea.

"You'd better not do that," he warned, "for I never knew anything named Lincoln that amounted to much."

Well, Lincoln's friends didn't pay much attention to the warning. Perhaps they attributed it to his well-known, self-deprecating sense of humor. After all, Lincoln himself had already amounted to something. He was a successful attorney, and, although his political career was in something of a slump, he still had a fairly distinguished record. As a state legislator, in 1839, he had helped carve Logan County, which was to contain Lincoln, out of Sangamon County. And he had suggested naming the new county after his friend Dr. John Logan, whose son John would later win fame as a Union general in the Civil War. In any event, they stuck to their choice of names, and Lincoln, Illinois, became the only city to be named for Lincoln before he became president.

But maybe, just maybe, Lincoln did have some doubts that the new town would ever amount to anything. Although he attended the first public sale of lots — even going so far as to "christen" the new town with juice squeezed from a watermelon — he did not take advantage of the opportunity to buy any of the land.

Maybe he didn't think it was worth owning. If he did have serious doubts about the town, perhaps he'd change his mind if he could see it today. Lincoln, the city, has survived, grown and prospered, and is looking with enthusiasm toward the 21st century.

"It's not perfect, but I certainly think Lincoln can say it's amounted to something," said Paul Beaver, professor of history at Lincoln College.

"For a small county I think we've whupped up on the big boys pretty good. We've bled our own when we could have been swallowed up. Just look at other counties."

Lincoln has achieved power beyond what might be expected based on the city's small size. Beaver said. Lincoln native Ed Madigan, currently in his 17th year in the U.S. House of Representatives, is regarded as a quiet but highly effective representative. His brother Robert, also a Lincoln native, is a member of the state senate. And Lincoln resident John McCullough is a state appellate judge.

"I personally believe that Lincoln has had, throughout its 136 years, more political influence for its size than any other (community) I know of," Beaver said. "And it wasn't always just Republican activity. Judge (Lawrence) Stringer, who was a U.S. congressman, was very instrumental in getting the Illinois Democrats to back Woodrow Wilson in the 1912 (presidential) election."

Lincoln today is a city of about 17,200 people. It has two state prisons, a state developmental center for the handicapped, two colleges, and factories that produce everything from insulated windows to Lysol to electrical equipment to cardboard boxes.

The city also boasts a courthouse square that couples the charm of traditional Midwestern design with full occupancy — no mean accomplishment for small downtown cities these days.

The downtown is in great shape," said Beth Harding, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce. "We're one of the few areas around with a full downtown. We have a lot of little specialty shops."

It's all quite different from the Lincoln that Mr. Lincoln first saw. In the summer of 1853, the city existed only on paper. The place itself was an unimpressive piece of prairie, indistinguishable from the thousands and thousands of rolling acres around it.

What made this place special was the coming of the Chicago and Mississippi Railroad. Lincoln's friend and client Robert Latham was both the sheriff of Logan County and an agent of the railroad, so he had inside knowledge of where the line was to run and where a station was to be built.

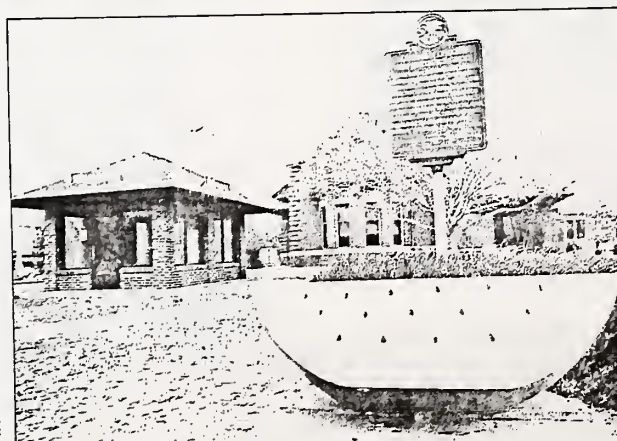
Latham bought up property along the proposed line with the idea of building a town around the rail center. It was a maneuver that would probably draw the attention of the authorities today. In those days it was just smart business.



Paul Beaver, associate professor of Lincoln College and curator of the Lincoln Museum there.



Left, "Lincoln the Student," a statue by Merrill Gage, stands on the Lincoln College campus. Right, University Hall was built around 1865, making it the oldest building on campus.



The city of Lincoln

● from page 11

By 1870, Lincoln had nearly 5,000 residents. The town's early growth was due to the railroad and to the productivity of the surrounding farmland.

"We have some of the richest land in the world around here," said Beaver, whose great-great-grandfather settled in Logan County a few months before the city of Lincoln was laid out.

Beaver said the land was made especially productive because of innovative drainage techniques used by William Scully, an Irish landlord who eventually owned 30,000 acres in Logan County. By the turn of the century, Scully was the owner of the largest accumulation of farm land in the country.

As early as the 1870s, Scully's workers, mostly experienced, hard-working farmers brought from Germany and Ireland, were using tiles to drain the marshy prairie.

"He came in that early and made it productive when even the federal government didn't think it would work," Beaver said. "Without the tiling, it wouldn't have worked. That, and the quality of the immigrants he got, just turned the area into a garden. With him draining it and them farming it, it just turned it into one of the richest areas of land in the United States."

Another land baron who contributed to the growth of agriculture in Logan County was John Gillett, who raised cattle on his farm near Elkhart. When he died in 1881, Gillett was the richest man in the county, and was known as the "Cattle King of the World."

Since the days of Gillett and Scully, agriculture has helped form the stable base of Lincoln's economy, contributing not only jobs, but also revenue for a thriving downtown retail trade.

"Downtown Lincoln was very famous for its retail trade," Beaver said. "One famous area was Dutch Row, along Chicago Street, where the Germans shopped."

The mid-1870s also brought the institution now known as Lincoln Developmental Center. Originally called the Illinois Asylum for Feeble-Minded Children, and later the Lincoln State School and Colony, the in-

stitution added its own stabilizing effect with a large number of state employees.

Coal was discovered near Lincoln in 1867, and mining became an important part of the economy by the turn of the century. The mines also changed the composition of the community.

Most of the early settlers of the community were Kentuckians, with their roots in Virginia, the Carolinas and ultimately in the British Isles. Scully's farms added Irish and German immigrants to the mix.

The mines brought a different group — Poles, Serbs, Croats and other eastern Europeans — men known not by their tongue-twisting surnames but by nicknames like "Ten Dollar Mike" and "Coalball Joe."

The mines also brought the growing labor movement to Lincoln.

Police records from the 1890s provide evidence of labor trouble, and of the impact a four-year-long economic depression had on the little town.

In 1894, the records show, miners went on strike at the south mine, and the Chicago and Alton Railroad asked city officials to help protect company trains hauling coal from the mine.

Police Superintendent John Mitchell and three of his officers rode the train to the mine shaft. A mob of strikers attacked the train, and a knife was thrown at Mitchell, but the police, with the aid of the train crew, were eventually able to beat back the mob and restore order.

Police records, Mitchell was asking the city council for more officers "to cope with numerous highway robberies and other serious crimes being committed by transients."

Mitchell told the council there was a camp of "vagabonds" on Sugar Creek, north of town, "where 25 men now exist without viable means of support, and conduct nightly raids on the countryside, robbing and injuring citizens and property."

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en thousand, and with very few exceptions they were all in bed by ten o'clock."

"In my childhood," Maxwell wrote, "Lincoln was entirely canopied with elm, silver maple, box elder, linden and cottonwood trees. Their branches frequently met over the brick pavement, and here and there, above this green roof, steeples and bell towers protruded: the Methodist, the Baptist, the Cumberland Presbyterian, the German Catholic and the Evangelical Lutheran, the Christian, the Irish Catholic, the Presbyterian, the Congregational, the African Methodist, the Universalist, the Episcopalian. On Sunday morning the air was full of the pleasant sound of church bells."

Maxwell also remembered the farmers who made up the backbone of the area's economy.

"On Saturday nights the farmers drove into town in their buckboard wagons, and I saw them roaming the courthouse square with unsmiling faces when we drove downtown for an ice cream soda. At that period, rising in the world meant giving up working with your hands in favor of work in a store or office. The people

who lived in town had made it, and turned their backs socially on those who had not but were still growing corn and wheat out there in the country."

As the 20th century rolled on, Lincoln continued in its dual paths of being sheltered from the outside world, yet clearly being a part of it. For example, well before the coming of the hard roads Lincoln paved the way for the automotive age.

In 1909, the Lincoln Motor Vehicle Co. was formed. The company manufactured a high-wheeled car with solid rubber tires and a two-cylinder air-cooled engine. The car never caught on — it was manufactured for only a couple of years — but industrialist Henry Ford did eventually buy the rights to use the company name for a line of cars that is still available.

Lincoln made a more significant contribution to another budding technology in the early 1920s: a young man named Les Allass obtained a license to operate a radio station. Two local musicians provided most of the entertainment for the station, which Allass named WBBM, for "We Broadcast Better Music."

When Allass broadcast the district

high school basketball tournament from the gym of Lincoln College in March 1923, he entered the record books with the first basketball game ever aired in the United States.

In 1925, Allass took his station, and its call letters, to Chicago. He later became one of the founders of the CBS broadcasting network.

The 1920s also brought Prohibition to Lincoln. Writing in a 1982 history of Logan County, Sanford Patterson said one running joke during Prohibition was that there were so many bootleggers in the county that they had to wear badges so they wouldn't sell to each other.

Most famous of Lincoln's bootleggers was John "Coonhound Johnny" Schwenoha, whose favorite sport was, obviously, coon hunting. Schwenoha was well-connected — his Lincoln operation was one of Al Capone's many downstate retreats. Schwenoha operated a speakeasy on the north side of town, and he kept a supply of slot machines on hand for the entertainment of Capone's henchmen.

Schwenoha's influence couldn't always keep him out of trouble, but it continued to be useful. In 1924, local

law officers and federal agents raided 17 illegal establishments, including Schwenoha's, in one day. Schwenoha was jailed, but was later ordered released by President Calvin Coolidge, reportedly the only bootlegger to ever receive a presidential pardon.

After Prohibition ended, Schwenoha operated a roadhouse that featured gambling along with other entertainments. He added to his legend on Dec. 6, 1941, the day before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. With World War II — and its four-year rubber shortage — just a day away, Coonhound Johnny reportedly bought every tire for sale in Logan County.

Lincoln may not be as colorful today, but it does continue to tout its strengths as a small town that's part of the larger world.

"I think our greatest strength is the quality of life here," said Chamber of Commerce director Harding. "Lincoln is kind of a small town, but we have a great location in the center of a million people in Bloomington-Normal, Peoria, Springfield, Decatur and even Champaign-Urbana. With all

Continued on page 13

Bergner's



Enter
Jardin
Imaginaire
with
Lancome, Paris.

IMAGINE THE SHEEREST, SMOKIEST, MOST ETHEREAL SHADES of rose, violet, plum and taupe. A totally magnificent bouquet of spring colour meant to delight all your senses. Imagine a whole new way to wear these incurably romantic facecolours: washed across eyelids, lips and cheeks for a fresh yet sophisticated, demi-matte effect by day... plus, for fantastic p.m. drama, surprise colour accents straight from the garden — right down to your fingertips.

robin adams sloan

King Features Syndicate

Q. Isn't that beautiful actress Michelle Pfeiffer being something of a home-wrecker by getting romantically involved with her married leading men? — L.H.

A. All I can do in this case is report what happened during the making of "Dangerous Liaisons," the new cos-

puts the palace at Versailles to shame. Is all this possible from a singing career and a talk show? — D.L.

A. Add to his job resume some brilliant real estate deals and it's not only possible but likely. As for the house, it has 60,000 square feet of living space, two tennis courts, three lakes, a helicopter pad and parking for 70 cars. His current house, which he bought

Sights to see in Lincoln

Lincoln is home to several historic sites and other places of interest to tourists. They include:

- The Postville Courthouse, 914 Fifth St. In 1835, nearly 20 years before Lincoln was mapped out, the village of Postville was settled by a speculator named Russell Post. Lawyer Abraham Lincoln frequently visited the community, arguing many cases in the courthouse. Postville was eventually engulfed by the growing town of Lincoln. A replica of the courthouse was built on the original site in the mid-1950s and is operated by the state Department of Conservation.

- Lincoln College, 300 Keokuk St. The college's oldest building, University Hall, dates to the 1860s. The college is also home to the Lincoln Museum and to the statue "Lincoln the Student," by sculptor Merrill Gage.

- The Lincoln Gallery, Olympic Federal Savings and Loan, 111 N. Sangamon St. The gallery includes a statue of Lincoln christening the city and a collection of paintings by Lloyd Ostendorf depicting Lincoln's life.

- Train Depot, Chicago and Broadway streets. Site of Lincoln's christening of the town with the juice of a watermelon, Aug. 27, 1853. A statue of a watermelon near the depot commemorates the event. As president-elect, Lincoln spoke on this site on his way

to Chicago on Nov. 21, 1860. His funeral train stopped here on May 3, 1865, on its way to Springfield.

- The Rustic Tavern, 412 Pulaski St. In the 1870s, a gang of counterfeiters plotted to steal Lincoln's body from Oak Ridge Cemetery in order to exchange it for a jailed gang member. Part of the plot was hatched here.

- Stephen A. Douglas site, Decatur and Sangamon streets. Douglas spoke to a Democratic political rally in a circus tent here during the 1858 senatorial campaign. His opponent, Lincoln, reportedly attended the speech.

- Lincoln property, 523 Pulaski St. Lincoln didn't buy this lot, but he did co-sign a note for a friend who did buy it. The friend was unable to keep up the payments, so Lincoln inherited the lot, and its property taxes.

- Logan County Courthouse, downtown square. Built in 1905, the courthouse includes a Civil War memorial, statues of Lincoln, murals and historical displays.

- Lincoln Public Library, 725 Pekin St. One of the original libraries built with the financial assistance of philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, this 1902 structure features a stained glass dome.

- The Heritage-in-Flight Museum, Logan County Airport. The museum contains memorabilia and artifacts from all U.S. military conflicts dating back to World War I.

The city of Lincoln

● from page 12

the cultural facilities and everything, we have the best of many worlds."

Lincoln continues to have the stabilizing presence of a large state payroll. Although the Developmental Center has considerably reduced its workforce — due to the trend toward placement of the handicapped in community settings — Lincoln has acquired two state prisons to make up for the lost employment.

And, although the population declined in past years, the city's growth is once again slow, but relatively stable. The population in 1980 was 16,300, while the projection for 1990 is 17,700. Long-term growth depends to a great extent on future economic development.

Chamber president Les Plotner, superintendent of the Lincoln elementary School District, said the city "is probably right on the verge of some pretty great things."

"We're getting things together where we're all pulling in the same direction," Plotner said. "There is a resurgence of people who are growth-conscious. For a while we were kind of content with what we had. For the last 10-12 years, we just didn't quite do as much."

The city is hoping to establish an industrial park to lure new business and industry, although the cost of pro-

viding utilities to such a site has stymied those efforts so far. Lincoln has also established an enterprise zone to provide tax incentives to new businesses, Harding said.

So far, the new Diamond Star Motors plant in Normal has not drawn any supporting industries to Lincoln, she said, but city officials continue to hope for spinoffs.

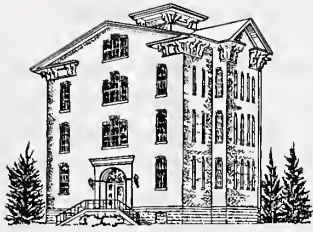
Tourism is also becoming an increasingly important factor in the city's economy, Harding said.

In the past, the city has been ambivalent about its historical heritage — proud of its connection with Abraham Lincoln, but somewhat hesitant about promoting it.

Perhaps the best example of this ambivalence occurred in the 1920s, when the city fathers were content to let Henry Ford buy the Postville Courthouse, where Lincoln had actually practiced law, for his Deerfield Village in Michigan. It was 30 years before the city built a replica of the courthouse on the original site.

Now, Harding said, the city is more actively selling itself and the surrounding area as a tourist site. Harding said the combination of tourism and hoped-for industrial growth could mean good things very soon for the city.

"We all feel like we're on the brink of something really breaking loose," she said.



The Lincoln Newsletter

A PUBLICATION OF THE LINCOLN COLLEGE MUSEUM

Volume XXII, Number 3

Lincoln, Illinois

Fall 2003

Lincoln, Illinois, Holds Gala Sesquicentennial Celebration: August 21-31, 2003

By Barbara Hughett

The city of Lincoln is getting ready to celebrate its 150th birthday in a big way—with a ten-day party, beginning on Thursday, August 21, and continuing through Sunday, August 31! Each day will feature a diverse selection of interesting things to do for the entire family.

The wide-ranging variety of events will include the annual balloon festival; carnivals; flea markets; antique showings; an art fair; a soapbox derby; fireworks; music of all varieties; a petting zoo; the crowning of the Sesquicentennial Queen; the dedication of the Abraham Lincoln well; a symposium panel on "Abraham Lincoln & Lincoln, Illinois," featuring noted Lincoln scholars; an 1853 christening ceremony reenactment; a farmers market; fried chicken and pork-chop dinners; a Sesquicentennial Queen Coronation; a Civil War Ball, and **much, much more!**

In this issue, we will feature more detailed articles about some of the special events. Also, we will include a schedule of events, as known at press time. (Please note that exact times of events are subject to change.)

The Birth of a City

Let's go back to that warm summer day—Saturday, August 27, 1853, when Abraham Lincoln christened his namesake city. How did the town come to be called Lincoln anyway? After all, Abra-

ham Lincoln, though a successful Illinois lawyer, was not exactly a household name at that point in time. He had served in the Illinois House of Representatives and one term (1847-1849) in the United States House of Representatives, but his national fame didn't come until 1858 and his famous debates with Senator Stephen A. Douglas during the campaign for the U.S. senatorial seat (which he lost to Mr. Douglas). Abraham Lincoln, however, had developed strong bonds of friendship with the people of Central Illinois.

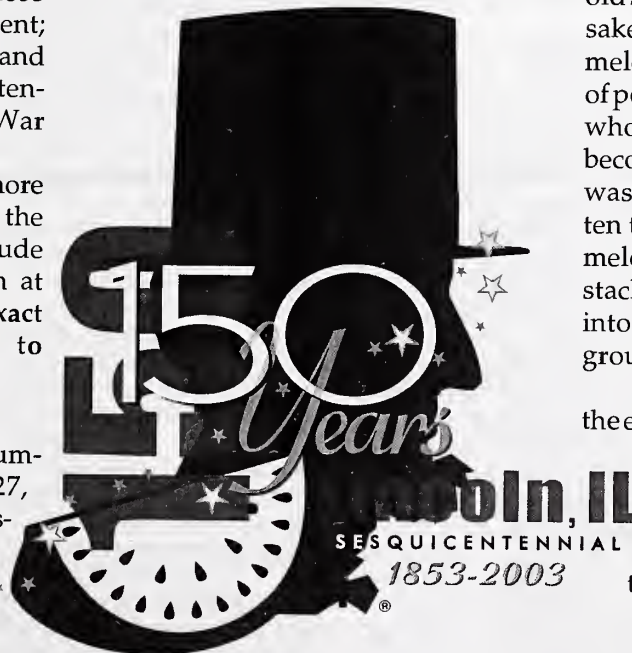
It was Lincoln, in his capacity as lawyer for the developers of the new town, located thirty miles northeast of Springfield, who drew up the city charter. It was the only town named

for him during his lifetime. The town's founders—Colonel Robert Latham, Virgil Hickox, and John D. Gillett—named it in his honor in spite of his protests that "nothing named Lincoln ever amounted to much."

The day of the christening was a gala occasion, featuring a "Sale of Lots" for the new town. The sale, which began at 10:00 a.m., had been advertised in all the newspapers in central Illinois. A special train from Springfield brought interested persons to the event for a round-trip fare of fifty cents. The train left Springfield at 7:30 a.m. and returned at 5:00 p.m.


Tradition has it that Abraham Lincoln was on that train, perhaps accompanied by Robert, his ten-year-old son. Lincoln christened his namesake town with the juice of a watermelon. According to the recollections of people who were present, the man, who would in less than eight years become President of the United States, was asked by Robert Latham to christen the city with the juice of a watermelon. He selected one from a nearby stack, severed it, squeezed some juice into a tin cup, and poured it on the ground.

He is supposed to have said at the end of a brief speech, "The youngest American on the ground shall feast with me on the christening watermelon." Here accounts differ as to the identity of that "youngest American on the



Continued on Page 8

"Abraham Lincoln & Lincoln, Illinois" to be Discussed by Panel on August 25

 highlight of the Lincoln Sesquicentennial Celebration will be the panel discussion on Heritage Day, August 25, at 7:00 p.m. at the Johnson Center for Performing Arts on the Lincoln College Campus. A lengthy article on this event appeared in our last issue of this newsletter. But, to summarize:

The topic is "Abraham Lincoln & Lincoln, Illinois," and the panel, to be moderated by **Ron Keller**, director of the Lincoln College Museum, will feature the following contributors:

- **Mark A. Plummer**, Professor of History Emeritus, Illinois State University and award-winning author of several books on Lincoln and Illinois history;
- **Wayne C. Temple**, chief deputy archivist at the Illinois State Archives, author of several books and numerous articles on Lincolniana and Illinois history, and former editor of the *Lincoln Herald*;
- **Paul J. Beaver**, Professor Emeritus, Lincoln College, author, co-producer of a documentary video about Lincoln in Logan County, and vice president of the Lincoln Sesquicentennial Committee; and
- **Paul E. Gleason**, assistant to the director of the Lincoln College Museum, history instructor at the college, and co-author of *Logan County: A Pictorial History*.

Free tickets may be obtained by contacting the **Abraham Lincoln Tourism Bureau** at 217-732-8687.

Continued from Page 1 - Lincoln Holds Gala Sesquicentennial

ground." According to accounts cited in Judge Lawrence B. Stringer's *History of Logan County, Illinois* (1911), that child was John Stevens, a local boy. However in 1991, Lincoln scholar and Logan County historian James T. Hickey said that his research indicated that "youngest American" might have been none other than Robert Lincoln. Proceeds from the sale of lots in the new town totaled \$6,000, a considerable sum in 1853.

Contracts drawn up by Abraham Lincoln for the sale of the town lots provided for the release of the purchasers in the event that the county seat was not established on the site within one year. In preparation for that occurrence, Robert Latham deeded the sites for the Logan County courthouse and jail. Indeed, in the next election, Lincoln, Illinois, was named the county seat.

Lincoln himself did not purchase a lot, but four years later, as payment on a \$400 note he had endorsed, he received a lot on the south side of the courthouse square. He owned it for the rest of his life. In 1874, his widow deeded it to their son, Robert Lincoln. Robert sold it to Captain David H. Harts, a member of the Lincoln College Board of Trustees.

Lincoln in Lincoln, Illinois

Abraham Lincoln knew the town of Lincoln intimately. His legal experience was gained in the courthouses of the old Eighth Circuit, which included Postville, Mt. Pulaski, and later, Lincoln. Deskins Tavern was his place of lodging when he stayed in the area. He sometimes played ball in Postville Park after court adjourned, and often threw the maul with John Allison, owner of Deskins Tavern.

Though never elected a judge, it was in Lincoln in 1857 that Abraham Lincoln filled this position *pro tem*, in the absence of and with the approval of Judge David Davis, and also with the approval of both parties in the case. He presided in the Christian church, as the Logan County courthouse had been destroyed by fire and was not yet rebuilt.

The following year, after leaving a train from Bloomington, he stepped into a tent near the Lincoln railroad depot to hear Senator Stephen A. Douglas, his opponent in the 1858 senatorial contest. Later in that campaign, Lincoln addressed a rally at the courthouse. Although Logan County went for Douglas in that election, it backed Abraham Lincoln for president in both the 1860 and 1864 elections.

The
Lincoln Newsletter
A PUBLICATION OF THE LINCOLN COLLEGE MUSEUM

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Namesake town wants looming Lincoln statue

■ Supporters advocate large theme park, too

LINCOLN (AP) — Abraham Lincoln's legacy is already etched on everything from Illinois' license plates to commemorative quarters, but a small-town group hopes an even bigger tribute is yet to come.

A towering 305-foot monument of the 16th president — as tall as the Statue of Liberty — has been proposed in this namesake city of about 15,000 people, which Lincoln christened years before his rise into history.

Supporters think the \$40 million statue, which would be visible for about 20 miles, could ultimately anchor a massive theme park blending historical exhibits with rides, restaurants and other attractions.

"If we get the money, I think you'll see it go and I think you'll see it become one of the biggest tourist attractions in America," said the Rev. S.M. Davis, a Lincoln pastor who first suggested the mammoth monument.

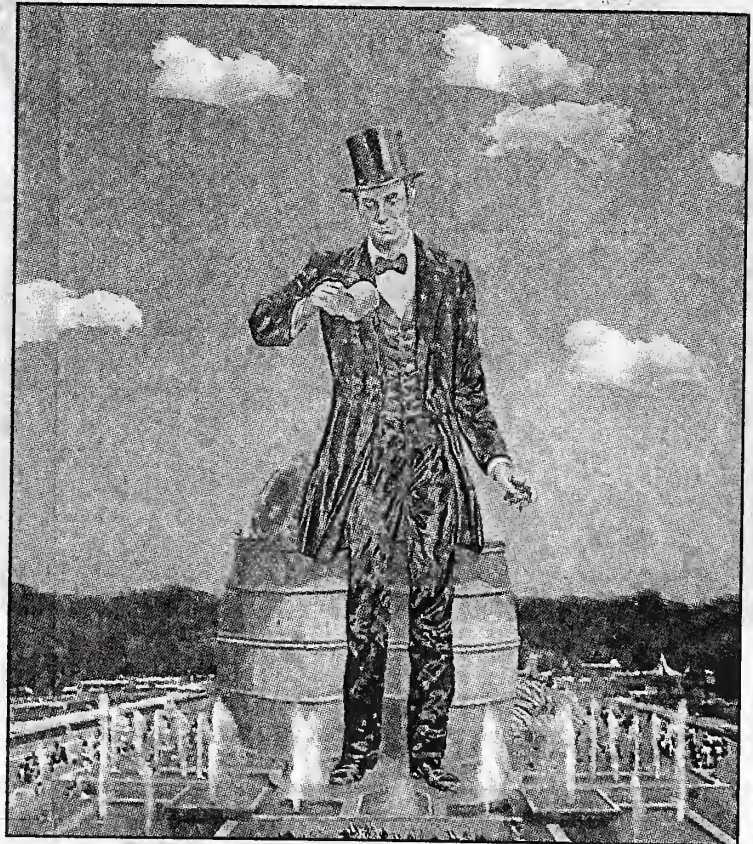
The idea has met skepticism in Lincoln, where some townspeople worry that the hulking statue might be in bad taste. Others question whether the rural area could pull off a project so big that organizers predict it could double Lincoln's population within five years.

"Most of the people I talk to think it's a joke," said Don Loren, who has been a downtown barber for 54 years.

But stranger things have happened in the growing amusement industry, said Art Schutte of International Theme Park Services, a Cincinnati-based firm working with Lincoln statue supporters.

"Remember Branson?" Schutte said, referring to the small Missouri town that has become a country music mecca. "You just never know."

Davis first floated the idea about 2½ years ago, and a community group was appointed to solicit the corporate donations needed to bankroll the project.



AP/handout

This is an artist's rendering of a proposed 305-foot monument of Abraham Lincoln to be built in Lincoln. Supporters such as the Rev. S.M. Davis, a Lincoln pas-

tor who first suggested the statue, say it would be visible for about 20 miles and could be one of the biggest tourist attractions in the United States.

Then the nation's economy soured and the Twin Towers fell, raising concerns about adding new targets for terrorism, said chairman Larry Steffens.

With the economy showing signs of recovery, supporters recently renewed their sales pitch. Steffens said one company is already "very interested," and Schutte thinks several might be willing to invest in exchange for naming rights.

The first phase of the project would build the steel and fiberglass statue, patterned after a Lloyd Ostendorf painting that shows Lincoln christening the town with watermelon juice in 1853, Steffens said.

Though organizers hope to match the height of the Statue of Liberty, Steffens said plans could shrink because of air traffic and the tornadoes that

threaten the area every spring.

The initial phase, which would take about two years to build, also would put replicas of two wooden barrels behind Lincoln — 10-story buildings that could house museums, shops and restaurants, Steffens said.

Later, the project near Interstate 55 could expand to include historical exhibits, along with rides, shows and other attractions similar to Six Flags or Disney World, Steffens said.

"You don't do something like this in a year or two years. It may take 20 years, but if that's what it takes that's what it takes," Steffens said.

Tourism officials think the statue would be an economic boost for both Lincoln, which already has a replica of a Lincoln-era courthouse and a Lincoln College museum with \$2.2 million of memorabilia.

LOCAL

Tuesday, January 20, 2004

The News-Gazette

B

Chambers - Lincoln

NATIONAL

Honest — town considering 305-foot statue of Lincoln

Illinois backers plan on tourist hot spot, but foes fear it's bad taste

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Ill. — Abraham Lincoln's ties to Illinois already are honored on everything from state license plates to commemorative quarters, but a small-town group is working on an even bigger tribute.

A 305-foot monument of the former U.S. president — as tall as the Statue of Liberty — has been proposed in his namesake town of 15,000 people.

That's more than 230 feet higher than Texas' tallest statue — the Dallas Zoo giraffe off Interstate 35, which is 67½ feet. That's about half a foot taller than the statue of Sam Houston off Interstate 45 near Huntsville.

In Illinois, supporters think the \$40 million Lincoln statue could ultimately anchor a massive theme park, blending historical exhibits with rides, restaurants and other attractions.

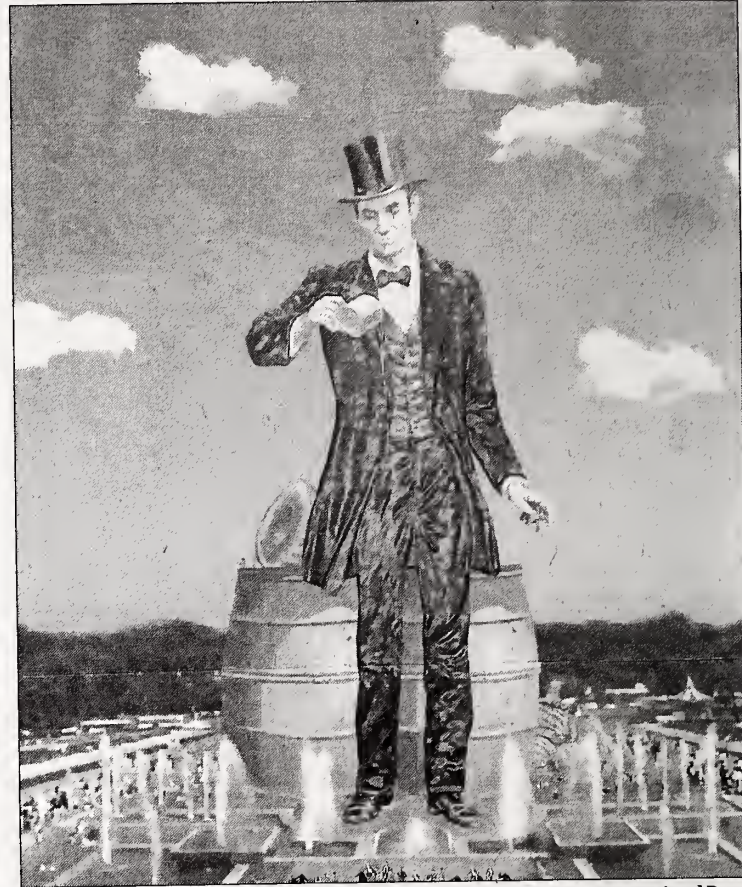
"If we get the money, I think you'll see it go, and I think you'll see it become one of the biggest tourist attractions in America," said the Rev. S.M. Davis, a Lincoln pastor who first suggested the monument.

But the idea has met skepticism in Lincoln, where some townspeople worry that the statue, which would be visible for about 20 miles, might be in bad taste. Others question whether the rural area could pull off a project so big that organizers predict it could double Lincoln's population within five years.

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Associated Press

A drawing shows the proposed monument of Abraham Lincoln in Lincoln, Ill. It would be visible for about 20 miles.

Missouri town that has become a country music mecca. "You just never know."

Mr. Davis first floated the idea about 2½ years ago, and a community group was appointed to solicit the corporate donations for the project. Then the nation's economy soured and the World Trade Center towers fell, raising concerns about adding new terrorism targets, said Larry Steffens, chairman of the group.

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The steel and fiberglass statue would be patterned after a Lloyd Ostendorf painting that shows

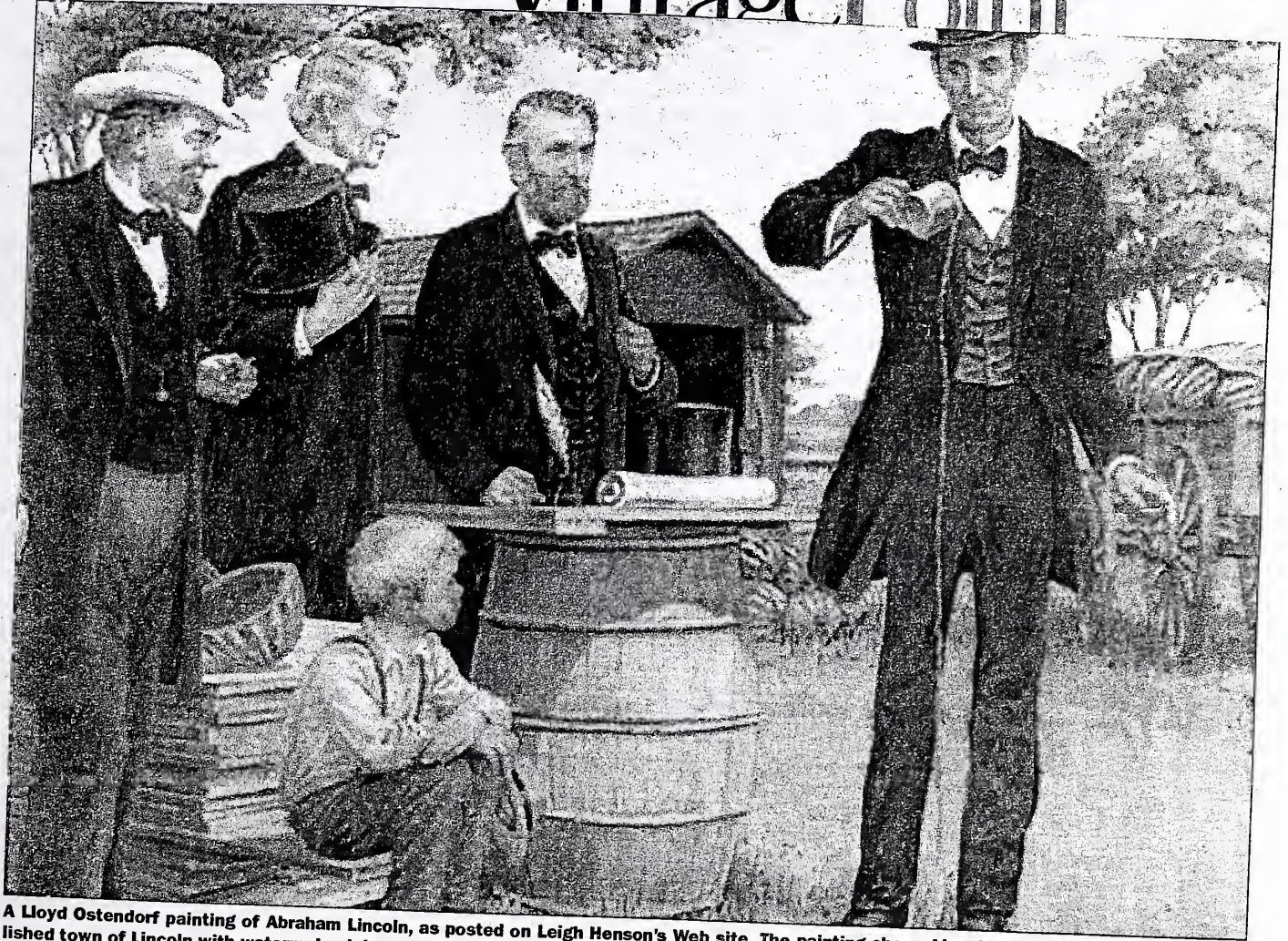
Lincoln christening the town with watermelon juice in 1853, Mr. Steffens said.

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The initial phase, which would take about two years, also would put replicas of two wooden barrels behind Lincoln — 10-story buildings that could house museums, shops and restaurants, Mr. Steffens said.

Tourism officials think the statue would be an economic boon for both Lincoln, which already has a replica of a Lincoln-era courthouse and a Lincoln College museum with \$2.2 million of memorabilia.

VintagePoint



A Lloyd Ostendorf painting of Abraham Lincoln, as posted on Leigh Henson's Web site. The painting shows Lincoln christening the newly established town of Lincoln with watermelon juice. The original painting is owned by the State Bank of Lincoln.

THE COURIER

County's Abe Lincoln sites get colorful boost

BY NANCY ROLLINGS SAUL
THE COURIER

Tuesday, July 03, 2007

The first of what is planned to be series of signs marking Abraham Lincoln sites in Logan County was dedicated this morning on the front of the Sherwin Williams building in downtown Lincoln.

Historian Paul Beaver and Lincoln Railsplitting Association president Darlene Begolka unveiled the sign on the site of the lot at 523 Pulaski St. that Abraham Lincoln once owned.

"For me personally, it has been a long struggle to see these signs put in place," said Paul Beaver, chairman of Lincoln's Looking for Lincoln Committee. "And it is now very nice to see the very first one in place and in honor of a great friend, Les Sheridan."

The late Les Sheridan was a member of the Lincoln Railsplitting Association, which paid the entire cost of the sign.

Beaver and Charles Ott reminisced about how Sheridan, an avid Lincoln promoter, would call them in the middle of the night to pitch a project he had dreamed up for promoting the community.

"People used to think things Les Sheridan talked about were way out of the world," Ott said. "But a lot of it came true. He was a great dreamer."

Beaver first noticed signs similar to the one unveiled this morning during a trip to Gettysburg, Pa. He set about several years ago to make them a reality for marking the county's Abraham Lincoln sites.

Each sign will feature an illustration produced by the late Lloyd Ostendorf, a well-known Lincoln collector and illustrator, who lived in Dayton, Ohio.

Sheridan contacted Ostendorf about 1971, and commissioned him to do a series of illustrations depicting various activities of Abraham Lincoln in Logan County. Eventually, about 30 pictures were produced, mostly in black and white.

"I don't know how he talked Lloyd Ostendorf into doing those prints," Beaver said. "He was a famous illustrator."

Adam May, owner/operator of AMP Studios in Lincoln, used computer software to colorize the illustrations for the signs.

The first sign shows Lincoln paying taxes on his lot to the deputy county collector of taxes at the old Logan County Courthouse.

The city of Atlanta is proceeding with the acquisition of four signs that will deal with

<http://www.lincolncourier.com/printstory.asp?SID=7517>

7/6/2007

County's Abe Lincoln sites get colorful boost

Lincoln's involvement in that city and the Abraham Lincoln Tourism Bureau of Logan County has approved signs at the Railsplitter Covered Wagon and the Postville Well, across from Postville Courthouse State Historic Site, where Lincoln drank water.

Interest has also been expressed for placing signs at Postville Courthouse, the Middletown Stagecoach Inn and Lincoln sites in Mount Pulaski, Elkhart and elsewhere around the county. In all, about 30 sites are slated for signs.

[Print Story](#) | [Close Window](#)

Lincoln online

A native son
has created an
exhaustive Web site
of all things related
to his hometown

By JOHN O'CONNELL
of the Journal Star

No matter where Leigh Henson resides, his boyhood home of Lincoln is only a mouse click away.

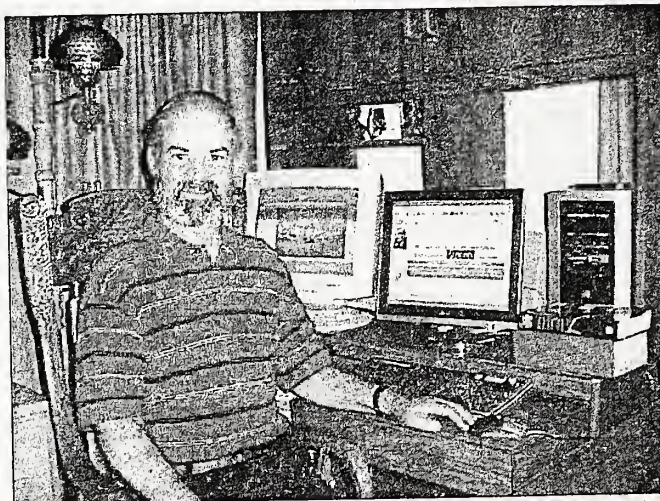
Last July, the 61-year-old former Pekin Community High School English teacher, who's now a professor of technical writing at Southwest Missouri State University, launched his Web site (www.geocities.com/findinglincolnillinois/), which tells the story of President Abraham Lincoln and the first town named in his honor.

In Lincoln, the country's 16th president had practiced law, substituted as a judge, owned property and engaged in politics.

In Henson's introduction, he writes that he created the Web site as a public service to educate viewers about the rich heritage and promising future of Lincoln — a community of 15,400 located 60 miles south of Peoria.

He hopes the Lincoln Web site will promote civic pride among the town's residents and encourage nonresidents to visit his boyhood hometown.

Henson is following in the footsteps of former Lincoln resident and literary figure William Maxwell, who often focused on the small Midwestern community in his novels and short stories. But rather than deliver his



Professor Leigh Henson sits in his office with his Web site on his computer screen. The site contains the equivalent of 800 printed pages and was recently named the Illinois State Historical Society's "best Web site of the year."

Photo courtesy of Leigh Henson

message in print, Henson chose the Internet.

"I teach a graduate class in Web site design and development," Henson said in a telephone interview. "So this was good practice for me. Developing a Web site publication has distinctive advantages over traditional book publication. With a Web site, you can interact with the reader. A Web site also allows you to add and revise the content a lot easier."

"My Lincoln Web site home page carries announcements of new additions. For example, in the chapter 'Transformation of Abraham Lincoln and the Founding of Lincoln, Illinois,' I recently added a 4,000-word section about two lawyers, Samuel Parks and Lionel Lacey, with whom Abraham Lincoln collaborated while practicing law at the Logan County Courthouse from 1853 to 1860.

"Parks became a distinguished judge and was a key supporter of Abraham Lincoln in the 1860 Republican Convention that nomi-

nated Lincoln as its presidential candidate. I published rare photos of these attorneys in the Lincoln Web site."

Henson's Web site is the equivalent of more than 800 printed pages with about 1,000 images. Some 7,000 viewers have visited the site. It also has attracted the notice of the Illinois State Historical Society, which recently named the site "best Web site of the year."

"The Illinois State Historical Society has two levels of awards," Henson said. "The top level is Superior Achievement, which is the one my Web site won. Naturally, I'm very pleased with the award. It means recognition for several years of research on this project. And by winning the award, I got some publicity, which will mean more people will know about the Web site."

Included in the Web site's content are Henson's memoirs of growing up in Lincoln

Please see **LINCOLN**, Page C5

LINCOLN

Continued from Page C6

as well as recollections of present and former Lincolmites.

"Where I lived was in walking distance of the Postville Courthouse, where Lincoln practiced law riding the 8th Judicial Circuit," Henson said. "I also lived very close to Postville Park, where Lincoln played an early form of baseball. I remember many family picnics in that park. I grew up with both sets of my grandparents within walking distance of my home."

In creating the Web site, Henson had the help of many native Lincolmites, including attorney Fred Blanford and Illinois Appellate Court Justice James Knecht of Bloomington.

"In addition to recollections

about growing up in Lincoln from Justice Knecht, I also included a short story by him about playing pool at Hickey's Billiards in downtown Lincoln on Chicago Street. Knecht's story tells how this pool hall was a real-world classroom that taught him a great deal about human nature. The story is as good as any Hemingway short story."

In addition to writer William Maxwell, poet Langston Hughes also called Lincoln home for a time.

"Hughes spent his eighth-grade year in Lincoln," Henson said. "In 1953, he wrote his eighth-grade teacher, Miss Ethel F. Welch, that he had never forgotten Lincoln. He told her that his writing career began in eighth grade when he was elected class poet."

Among many published

sources used to develop the site are quotations from Maxwell, who used people and places from Lincoln in many of his short stories.

The Web site goes into great detail on the founding of Lincoln in August 1853. The town was located about a mile east of a community called Postville in the vicinity of the Chicago and Alton Railroad tracks. Postville would later be absorbed by the town of Lincoln.

According to the Web site, the town's developers proudly asked their distinguished attorney, Abraham Lincoln (also the railroad's attorney), if he would agree to have the town named after him.

Lincoln reluctantly agreed. But in Judge Lawrence Stringer's account in a history about Logan County, Lincoln cautioned the developers: "You'd

better not do that, for I never knew anything named Lincoln that amounted to much."

The town, which eventually became the county seat of Logan County, was named for Abraham Lincoln long before he became a nationally known figure. Lincoln christened the town with juice from a watermelon.

Henson's site also delves into the social and economic history of the community. There are extensive sections on local businesses and the influence of the railroad. There also is a section on Route 66, the historic highway that ran through Lincoln. The town is rich in remnants of what Henson calls "the world's most famous highway."

"Both sets of my grandparents lived on Route 66," he said. "One set of grandparents owned a grocery store and a

gas station right on Business 66. That highway was a good part of my youth."

Henson also writes of such Prohibition-era figures as bootlegger Coonhound Johnny and of famous roadhouses like the Maple Club.

A 1960 graduate of Lincoln Community High School, Henson earned his bachelor's (1964), master's (1969) and doctoral (1982) degrees in English from Illinois State University. He taught English at Pekin Community High School for 30 years before going to Southwest Missouri State University in 1994.

Henson has two grown children, Kendra Henson, 31, and Brandon Henson, 27. Five years ago, he married Pat Hartman, who years earlier was a student in one of Henson's English classes at Pekin Community

High School.

Henson began his Web site as a way to learn more about his hometown and to show others what it's like growing up in a small town. He spent several years collecting photos, maps and vintage postcards and doing research for the project.

"It took two or three years and a lot of trial and error with computer technology to develop the Web site," he said.

"A lot of people see Web sites as superficial. That doesn't have to be. I believe my Web site is significant in its content and purpose. I'm trying to educate readers about Lincoln as well as promote civic pride and increase heritage tourism."

"I feel as technology advances, we will see more Web sites with substantial content used in education."



Luciano: Roadside Abe has many followers

By PHIL LUCIANO (pluciano@pjstar.com)
Journal Star

Posted Jun 10, 2010 @ 11:00 PM

I knew Abraham Lincoln was our tallest president, but I didn't realize he was 12 feet tall.

And that's sitting down.

That's the Railsplitter you'll find as part of The World's Largest Covered Wagon, an exhibit so deemed by the Guinness Book of World Records. Despite that lofty recognition, it sits rather unassuming in a field aside a motel parking lot near Old U.S. Route 66. Yet, somehow, a lot of people have managed to find it: Fans of Reader's Digest recently named the exhibit as the Best Roadside Attraction in America.

Abe didn't have much reaction, probably because he's always got his massive nose stuck inside a law book. But Geoff Ladd, executive director of the Abraham Lincoln Tourism Bureau, has been crowing over the news.

"It caught me completely off guard," he says.

The venerable magazine recently ran its annual Best of America survey, which focuses on what it calls "only in America" oddities. For the roadside attraction category, the wagon beat out some imposing competition, including a 12-foot-high ball of twine in Cawker City, Kan., and a 19-foot talking cow in Neillville, Wis.

Ladd says readers had no list to choose from: Voting was completely open-ended. Thus, they had to have been familiar with the wagon.

"That's what's so impressive about it," he says.

I'd spotted the wagon before, but didn't make much note of it. I mean, with Vanna Whitewall in Peoria, it's not as if we're overly impressed here with oversized attractions.

But many others are. Ladd says people from all around the globe visit the wagon. Some are Abe aficionados, but most are devotees of Route 66. They stop to snap pictures as they wind along The Mother Road.

This weekend, the wagon will be deluged with gawkers. It's a stop on the Route 66 Garage Sale, a string of food and craft vendors akin to the Spoon River Drive. The garage sale, a fundraiser for a Route 66 restoration project, runs Friday and Saturday in McLean, Atlanta, Lawndale, Lincoln, Broadwell, Elkhart and Williamsville.

About 20,000 people will take in the sale, along with the wagon. Annually, as many as 50,000 visitors view the exhibit, Ladd says.

The wagon got its start about a decade ago in Divernon, a few miles south of Springfield. A police officer named David Bentley got the quirky idea as he recovered from heart surgery.

Ladd says with a chuckle, "Me, if I had stents put in my heart, I'd be recovering in bed. But this guy decided to build The World's Biggest Covered Wagon."

The wooden coach is 40 feet long, 12 feet wide and 24 feet tall. It weighs 5 tons.

A year later, Bentley decided to put Abe in the driver's seat. He created a fiberglass Lincoln, which weighs 350 pounds.

For several years, the display rested in Divernon alongside Interstate 55. Three years ago, Bentley offered to sell the display to the Abraham Lincoln Tourism Bureau. A local philanthropist came forward with \$12,000, the cost of buying and moving the exhibit.

Folks like the large Lincoln, though a few get picky regarding anachronisms, Ladd says.

"A true Abraham Lincoln scholar would say that if he were riding in a conestoga wagon, it would've been in his earlier years, before his beard. We're not that concerned about the details."

Keep in mind: It's an exhibit, not a playground. You're not allowed to climb aboard and ride shotgun with Abe.

"Were constantly discouraging that," Ladd says. "It's meant to be a visual attraction."

Besides, I can tell you that clambering up is no easy challenge. I tried. But I could not find solid footing, even as I attempted repeatedly to get up there.

Maybe that was wrong of me. But at least I'm being honest. That's what Abe would've wanted.

The World's Largest Covered Wagon can be found outside the Best Western Lincoln Inn, 1750 Fifth St., Lincoln.

PHIL LUCIANO is a columnist with the Journal Star. He can be reached at pluciano@pjstar.com, 686-3155 or (800) 225-5757, Ext. 3155. Luciano co-hosts "The Markley & Luciano Show" from 5:30 to 9 a.m. weekdays on 102.3 Max-FM.

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Luciano: Roadside Abe has m.

Photos



PHIL LUCIANO / JOURNAL STAR

Purchase this Photo

The World's Largest Covered Wagon, in Lincoln, has been named by Reader's Digest fans as the Best Roadside Attraction in America. No. 2 was a giant ball of twine in Kansas.

LINCOLN ILLINOIS

on the



STOP HERE

*...Abe
did!*



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

PREPARE MYSELF

COME DAY

MY CHANCE WILL COME

LINCOLN COLLEGE'S
Lincolniana and
President's Museums



McKinstry Memorial
Library
Lincoln, Illinois

HISTORIC LINCOLN COLLEGE

Lincoln College, Lincoln, Illinois, and Logan County all have a special relationship to Abraham Lincoln. Logan County was created in 1839 through efforts of Legislator Abraham Lincoln. In 1853, Lincoln, Illinois, was founded and named for Lincoln. The first town ever to be named for the 16th President. Lincoln christened the new town with the juice of a watermelon to the enjoyment of the purchasers of the new town lots. Greatness was yet to come.



A bronze statue of Lincoln the Student, by Merrell Gage, stands on the campus in front of the McKinstry Memorial Library, which houses the Lincoln Museum.

LINCOLNIANA AND PRESIDENTS MUSEUM

Because of its direct link with Abraham Lincoln, one of America's greatest sons and presidents, Lincoln College, some years ago, embraced a project in the interest of preserving



B. M. JACKSON

and collecting historical documents of Lincolniana, Americana, and items related to Presidents of the United States. The College maintains two museums in the McKinstry Memorial Library which attract thousands of students and visitors each year and, by these means, hopes to continually stimulate a vivid interest in American history.

THE LINCOLN COLLECTION now valued at over a quarter of a million dollars was begun in

1942 following the death of Judge Lawrence B. Stringer. Judge Stringer was the county judge of Logan County and his history of the County is considered the finest work on the subject. During his life Judge Stringer assembled a valuable Lincoln collection which he willed to the College to be placed in a special room. Over the years others have followed Judge Stringer's example.

This museum houses and displays more than 2,000 Lincoln volumes, numerous pamphlets, art, objects d'art and assorted items of historical significance. Notable in the collection is the original Power of Attorney which was drawn up in Lincoln's office and used to found the town of Lincoln, Illinois, and a campaign poster carried in torch light parade in Lincoln and later in the 1860 nomination parade in Springfield where it won a prize and was reproduced in Leslie's magazine. On display are several signatures of Abraham Lincoln, the table of Mentor Graham upon which Lincoln studied, and the desk used by Lincoln in the Illinois State Legislature at Springfield.

THE MUSEUM OF THE PRESIDENTS is designed as an impressive shrine honoring the men from George Washington to the present who have served as the chief executive of the United States. On display are documents signed by every President and, in some in-





stances, entirely in the President's own handwriting, together with their pictures and commemorative medals. This permanent exhibition dramatizes American history, inspires its study and serves as a lasting reminder that "freedom is the most valuable property of an individual."





UNIVERSITY HALL

Lincoln College was the first college in the country to be named for Abraham Lincoln. The engraving above shows University Hall, the first building on campus. Ground was broken for University Hall on February 12, 1865, Lincoln's last birthday. Named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974, it still serves Lincoln College students and the community.

The cover illustration, from a painting by Lloyd Ostendorf, portrays President Lincoln visualizing University Hall.

LINCOLN ILLINOIS

on the



STOP HERE

*...Abe
did!*



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

KEEPER OF THE

HOME DAY

AND WILL COME

A BRIEF HISTORY OF LINCOLN ILLINOIS

Walk in the footsteps of the Great Emancipator as you tour the "Lincoln Circuit" in Lincoln, Illinois. It was here that he spent many fruitful and joyous days.

As a Circuit Court Rider in the 1840's, Lincoln argued many cases in Historic Postville Courthouse. Later evidence shows that he served as attorney for Logan County on several occasions before he entered his political life.

Mr. Lincoln assisted in the platting of the town in early 1853 . . . And at the request of his many friends here on August 27, 1853, with a watermelon in hand, he ceremoniously walked to a nearby stump — broke the melon — and squeezing the juice on the ground, he christened the new town.

Lincoln, Illinois is the ONLY one of the 26 cities in the country that bears his name and was named for him before he became famous. Plan now to visit Lincoln, Illinois . . . a city with a Rich Heritage . . . and a challenging future.

THE TOWN PUMP

IT IS SAID THAT FROM
THIS WELL ABE LINCOLN
OFTEN DREW A COOL
DRINK OF WATER.

We invite you to

QUENCH YOUR
THIRST HERE . . .

. . . Abe did !



1

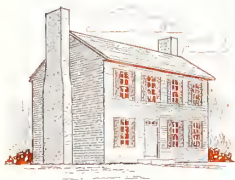
Postville Park



In 1835 Russell Post, a Baltimore adventurer, laid out the town of Postville which became the first Logan county seat. The town square is now Postville Park. Here Abraham Lincoln and his friends played town ball (a predecessor of baseball), threw the maul (a heavy wooden hammer), and pitched horseshoes.

2

Postville Court House



On this high point in the southwest part of Lincoln was the oldest court house in the Old Eighth Circuit which Abraham Lincoln had traveled for a quarter of a century. Serving a thinly scattered population, the lawyers of Lincoln's time had to ride the circuit to make a living. Here may be seen many documents and furnishings of the early 19th century.

3

Deskin's Tavern



On this site Dr. John Deskins erected a tavern in 1836. Abraham Lincoln, David Davis and other lawyers frequently stayed overnight here while the Eighth Judicial Circuit Court was in session at the Postville Court House. The judge, lawyers, litigants, witnesses, jurors and prisoners often shared the same dining table.

4

Stephen A. Douglas Speech



On this site during the senatorial campaign of 1858, Stephen A. Douglas spoke to a Democratic political rally in a circus tent on September 4. Douglas' opponent for the Senate seat, Abraham Lincoln, was on the train from Bloomington to Springfield and stopped to hear the speech.

5

Lincoln Property



This site is one of the only two pieces of property owned by Lincoln in his lifetime, the other being the Lincoln home in Springfield, Illinois. This lot was purchased by Lincoln in 1858 and was held until his death in 1865. The property was known as Lot 3, Original City of Lincoln, and now faces the south side of the square.

6

Scene of Conspiracy



In 1876, a gang of counterfeiters plotted to steal Lincoln's body from its tomb in Springfield, Illinois, hoping to be paid a ransom of \$200,000.00, and the freedom of one of their members who was then in the penitentiary. This conspiracy took place above a small inn, located at what is now 412 Pulaski Street.

7

Abraham Lincoln and Lincoln, Illinois



Near this site Abraham Lincoln christened the town with the juice of a watermelon when the first lots were sold on August 27, 1853. President-elect Lincoln spoke here, November 21, 1860, while traveling to Chicago, and the Lincoln's funeral train stopped here May 3, 1865, before completing the trip to Springfield, Illinois.

8

The Lincoln House



On this site the town proprietors erected the original Lincoln House in 1854. Leonard Volk met Abraham Lincoln on the sidewalk in front of the hotel on July 16, 1858, and arranged to make Lincoln's mask later.

9

Logan County Circuit Court



On this site stood two former Logan County courthouses in which Abraham Lincoln practiced law from 1856 until elected President. During the March term, 1859, Lincoln substituted for David Davis as the presiding judge of the Logan County Circuit Court.

10

Old Christian Church



On April 14, 1857, just a year after its construction, the Logan County Courthouse was razed by fire. The September, 1857 term of the Circuit Court was conducted in temporary quarters in the old Christian Church, which was located at 711 Pekin Street.

11

Robert B. Latham Home



On this site stood the home of Robert B. Latham who joined John D. Gillett and Virgil Hickox to found the town of Lincoln in 1853. Abraham Lincoln, judges and lawyers of the Eighth Judicial Circuit were frequent guests at his home.

12

Lincoln College



Historic Lincoln College was founded in 1865 as the first and only college named for Abraham Lincoln in his lifetime. Visit the historic Lincoln Room, the museum of the Presidency. Thousands of books, manuscripts and historical items are contained in the collection.

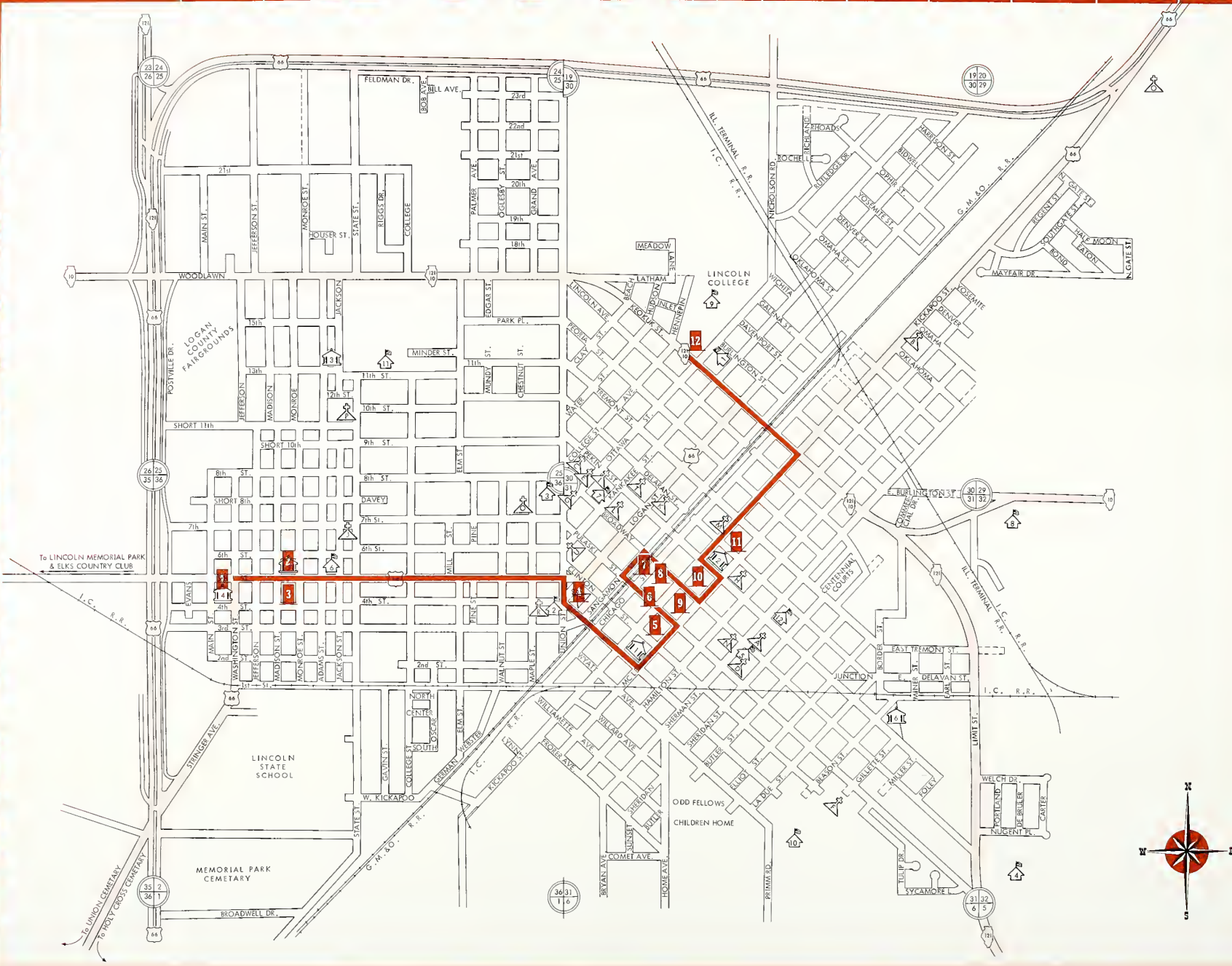
LEGEND OF "THE LINCOLN CIRCUIT"

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- 2 Postville Court House
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- 4 Stephen A. Douglas Speech
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Bob Avenue	A4	College St.	E7	La Due St.	C8	Gillette St.	K10	La Due St.	K9	Minder Pl.	D5	Ottawa St.	F7	Rutledge Dr.	B9	Sycamore Lane	L11	Webster Dr.	J5
Borier St.	H10	Comet Ave.	L7	Lincoln Ave.	D7	Grand Ave.	C6	Lotham St.	C8	Miner St.	H11	Palmer Ave.	C5	Sangamon St.	H7	Welch Dr.	K12	West Kickapoo St.	H4
Broadway	K11	Commercial Dr.	F11	Elliot St.	K8	Halfman	C18	Limit St.	12	Monroe St.	D5	Park Pl.	C5	Seventh St.	F4	Thirteenth St.	E4	Wichita St.	J9
Broadwell	L3	Davenport St.	D9	Elm St.	J5	Hamilton St.	J7	Lincoln Ave.	D7	Mundy St.	D5	Sheridan St.	J8	Willard Ave.	C9				
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Butler St.	K8	Decatur St.	F7	Fifth St.	H	Home Ave.	D8	Madison St.	D8	Nicholson Rd.	R9	Short Eleventh	E2						
Carter St.	K13	Delaron St.	G9	Fifth St.	D2	House	C3	Magraw St.	H1	North St.	J4	Short Eleventh	E2						
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tour the
"LINCOLN CIRCUIT"
IN HISTORIC
LINCOLN, ILLINOIS
on top of the
Heritage Trail



For additional information regarding
the rich heritage of Lincoln, Illinois . . .

THE LINCOLN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
LINCOLN, ILLINOIS



The brochure developed and prepared by
The Tourism Division, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce

The Lincoln Depot Welcomes You Here Are Some Scenes of Abraham



*This event
happened
on Lincoln
Depot site.*

Lincoln christens his namesake town with the juice of a watermelon. All lots in the new town were sold this day—August 27, 1853. Lincoln was lawyer for the town promoters who named the town in his honor.



On September 4, 1858, a train was held in Lincoln. When the train reached Lincoln, a circus band greeted Douglas. Lincoln was off the other end of the train.



*This event
happened on
Lincoln Depot site.*

A few weeks after his election to the Presidency, Abraham Lincoln spoke to his friends in Logan County bidding them farewell. It was one of the few speeches he made between his election and inauguration. This scene shows Mr. Lincoln speaking from the back of the train in downtown Lincoln.



This picture shows President Lincoln reading a letter informing him of the establishment of the University (Lincoln, Illinois) and the school was to be named in his honor. The school was broken for the University Hall (shown) on February 12, 1865—Lincoln's last living day.

The illustrations shown here were the work of Lloyd Ostendorff in cooperation with historical research, compliments of Paul Beaver, curator, Lincoln Historical Society.

to "Lincoln Country"

Lincoln — Lincoln, Illinois

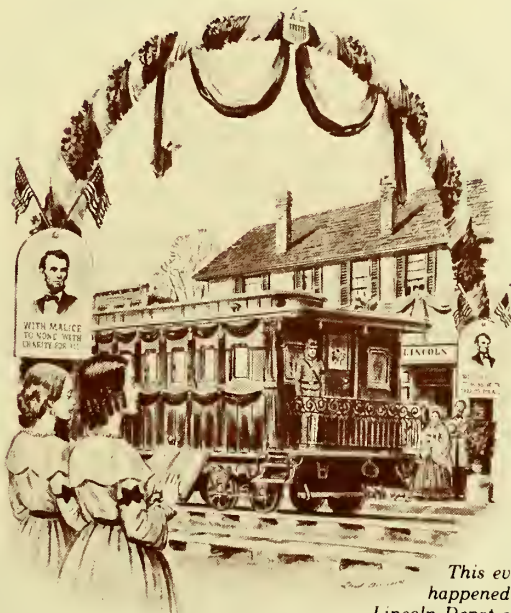


This event happened on Lincoln Depot site.

amous Douglas rally in bearing Douglas and many people arrived quietly getting



The Circus Band and crowd escorted Mr. Douglas to a circus tent where he spoke to the crowd. Mr. Lincoln was at the back of the tent listening to Douglas speak.



This event happened on Lincoln Depot site.

On May 3, 1865 at 5:25 a.m. the funeral train bearing Lincoln's body passed through Lincoln. The people stood silently, many weeping as they paid their last respects. The draped arch contained the motto "With malice to none and charity for all."

leading the of Lincoln him the round was (here) on rthday.

TEST YOUR HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE

- 1) Name the U.S. President during the period of the Pony Express.
- 2) Name the state animal of Illinois.
- 3) Name the state bird of Illinois.
- 4) Nickname of the University of Illinois Athletic teams.
5. Name the only U.S. President born in Illinois.
- 6) Abraham Lincoln's wife's name was _____.
- 7) Name the Illinois University where much of the work on the Atomic Bomb was completed.
- 8) Name the river that serves as part of the boundary between Illinois and Indiana.
- 9) Name one of the quad cities in Western Illinois _____.

1. Lincoln
2. White-tailed Deer
3. Cardinal
4. Fighting Illini
5. Reagan
6. Mary Ann Todd
7. University of Chicago
8. Wabash
9. Moline/Rock Island/Davenport/Bettendorf

ANSWERS

With the Logan County Abraham Lincoln Foundation.
Lincoln Museum at Lincoln College.

Contributed by William Arthur
 AND
 ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND THE CITY OF LINCOLN, LOGAN CO., ILLINOIS

The name "LINCOLN", as a place name, is of ancient use in England while in this country it was used early in Massachusetts. In course of time it has been applied to cities in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Vermont, and Washington, a total of twenty-three postoffices, while Lincoln, New York has been discontinued.

Of all the foregoing cities, only one, in Logan County, Illinois, was named for him, with his consent, long before he became President. The main incidents leading up to this event are as follows, as narrated in Vol. 1, of "History of Logan County", 1911.

On Jan. 7, 1839, a petition for a county to be formed from Sangamon County, to be known as Logan County, was presented to the Eleventh General Assembly, and was referred to the Committee on Counties, of which Mr. Abraham Lincoln was a member. It was then referred to a select committee, of which he was a member, which reported the bill favorably to the Assembly, and it was enacted as a law on February 5, 1839. The county was named for Dr. John A. Logan, a member of that General Assembly, and who was the father of Sen. John A. Logan. (pp. 146, 149)

Postville was selected as a county seat on June 3, 1839, (151) and confirmed by act of the legislature approved on June 4, 1841. (153) The first court house and the block of ground were donated by the owners of an addition to Postville (154) and it continued as such until the county seat was moved to Mt. Pulaski. In this building, in the Eighth Judicial District, Judges Treat and Davis handed down decisions, while Lincoln, Baker, Edwards, Walker, Stuart, and others plead their cases. Rev. Peter Cartwright held religious services. (154)

At an election held on the first Monday in April, 1847, the voters of the county decided to make Mt. Pulaski the county seat, and upon the completion of the new donated court house in 1848, the records were moved to Mt. Pulaski, where they remained until moved to Lincoln. Stephen A. Douglas, A. Lincoln, L. F. Linder, Josiah Lamborn, C. H. Browning, Lyman Trumbull, Leonard Swett and others often appeared in cases here. (158, 594). The old court house has been deeded to the State of Illinois and is now being altered to conform to its former interior construction, to be maintained as a State Memorial. The Postville court house was purchased by Henry Ford and reassembled in Dearborn, Michigan, as Governor Emerson refused to approve its purchase by the State.

With the construction to Springfield of the Alton and Sangamon RR. late in 1852, preparations were made to extend it to Bloomington, thru Logan County, early in 1853. By an act of the legislature, effective Feb. 14, 1853, an election was provided for to select a new county seat (160). Col. Robert B. Latham, Virgil Nickox, and John D. Gillett employed Abraham Lincoln to draw up the incorporation papers for a new town on the Chicago & Mississippi RR., now the 'Alton RR., and the document and deeds, containing the word "LINCOLN", all dated August 24, 1853, were drawn by Mr. Lincoln in his Springfield office (566, 567).

In drawing up the document, Mr. Lincoln asked the gentlemen what was to be the name of the new town, and finally Col. Latham suggested that it be named for Mr. Lincoln, but Mr. Lincoln said: "You'd better not do that, for I never knew anything named Lincoln that amounted to much". The name, however, was agreed upon, and incorporated in the legal papers. (568)

The town was surveyed August 26, 1853, and the first sale of lots occurred August 29, 1853, when ninety lots were sold bringing \$6,000.00 (569). On that day, Mr. Lincoln was present and going to a temporary street stand, he purchased two watermelons, at about the noon hour, and brought them, one under each arm to where Messrs Latham, Gillett and Hickox were and invited them to help dispose of them, with the remark, "Now we'll christen the new town." These incidents were related by Col. Latham to the author. (568)

In 1866, Col. Latham, with other trustees of the new Lincoln University, in Lincoln, published an appeal for funds which appeared in the Chicago Tribune, Feb. 12, 1866, and among other things stated: "The town of Lincoln was named after Abraham Lincoln, before presidential honors had any influence, by the proprietors, who were the personal and intimate friends of Mr. Lincoln". (568)

When in 1846, Mr. Lincoln ran for Congress from the 7th District, including Logan County, his opponent was Rev. Peter Cartwright. Both were well known in Logan County, for while Lincoln would try cases in the Postville court house during the day, Cartwright would preach there at night. Logan County gave Lincoln 390 votes and Cartwright 166, and in the district, Lincoln won with 6,340 votes to Cartwright's 4,829. (220)

In the Spring of 1858, on a stand erected on the N.E. corner of the court house square in Lincoln, Mr. Lincoln made a speech in which he used for the first time the famous quotation: "You can fool part of the people all the time, and all of the people part of the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time". (223)

On July 4, 1859, a big celebration was held in Atlanta when Mr. Lincoln was presented with a cane by Sylvester Strong, an old soldier of the War of 1812. That night he was presented, in the new Congregational Church, by Mr. James Tren, a local baker, with a large cake, but forgot his speech. Lincoln saved the situation by saying, 'Well, I'm not so hungry as I look'. He then turned around and presented it to the ladies of the church and it was auctioned off. (226)

In accordance with a bill approved Feb. 14, 1853, at an election held in November, 1853 it was decided to move the county seat from Mt. Pulaski to Lincoln. (566) Accordingly, a new court house on a block of ground donated by the incorporators (161) was erected and the county seat was moved a second time, to the third court house. On the night of April 15, 1857, this new court house was burned to the ground, and with it were destroyed substantially all the records of Logan County (161) excepting three or four books in the circuit clerk's office (573)

Two detached small fireproof offices, to be occupied by the circuit and county clerks were ready for occupancy on October 1, 1857, and a new main court house, costing \$13,000 (237) was ready in June 1858 (163).

county vote on Nov. 4, 1902 (238), a new court house, (the fifth) was authorized and finally completed on May 15, 1903 (240), costing \$150,000.00 and is one of the best in central Illinois.

The original name of Postville was changed to Camden on March 3, 1845, and by Act of Feb. 21, 1861, it was changed back to Postville. (565) In 1855, a town government was effected in Lincoln, which was succeeded in 1865 by a city government (571), when the first city officers were chosen on March 13, 1865. (575) By Act of Feb. 16, 1865, the two towns, Lincoln and Postville were united under the name of the City of Lincoln. (574).

While John Calhoun was county surveyor of Sangamon County, he induced Mr. Lincoln to come into his office, study surveying, and added him as a deputy to his surveying staff. Mr. Thomas M. Heile succeeded Calhoun in 1835, and Lincoln still retained his job. Messers John Wright and John Donovan, desiring to have a town site surveyed at Rocky Ford, on the west bank of Salt Creek, in what later became Logan County, Mr. Lincoln came on June 16, 1836 and surveyed the town of Albany. It was never occupied as a town. (215) Mr. Lincoln was admitted to the bar in 1836, and moved from Salem to Springfield the next year. (215)

Mr. Lincoln appeared for Logan County to defend it when the county seat was moved to Mt. Pulaski, and also when moved thence to Lincoln. In several cases appealed to the Supreme Court from Logan County, he appeared, and as late as 1860, he was practicing law in this county to within a few months of his election as President. (219)

In 1857, in New York City, Mr. Lincoln endorsed a note of \$400.00 for James Primm, an old Postville friend, and subsequently was obliged to pay it. On March 11, 1858, Mr. Primm in repayment, deeded to Mr. Lincoln, Lot 3, Block 19, Town of Lincoln, who owned it until his death. Later, his son, Robert Lincoln became the owner and sold it. This lot is located on the south side of the court house square. (221)

During the period of the Lincoln-Douglas debates, Mr. Douglas spoke to a large audience in Lincoln, (Mr. Lincoln being present), on September 4, 1858. (228)
as a spectator only

When Mr. Lincoln was nominated, on May 18, 1860, for the Presidency, campaign clubs known as 'Lincoln Wide Awakes' were organized in Lincoln and Atlanta, and the 'Lincoln Guards' in Mt. Pulaski. (229)

When Secretary of War Cameron, on April 13, 1861, the day that Fort Sumter fell, called on Governor Yates by telegraph for six regiments for immediate service, a company, afterwards Co. E of the Seventh regiment, from Logan County, was raised in Logan County the next day (171), who took the name of 'Lincoln Guards'. This company was the first Illinois company of the Civil War to arrive in Springfield at Camp Yates. The following day, another Logan County company, the 'Yates Rangers' was formed, and was a close second to the 'Lincoln Guards'.

In all, Logan County furnished the nation 2,160 soldiers, all volunteers, as no draft was ever required for at every call from 'Father Abraham'. Logan County exceeded its quota. In 1860, the voting strength of Logan County was elected, was only 3,332, so the sending of about 65 per cent of its voting strength to the front was exceptional. (168) *when Lincoln*

In honor of the heroic dead, a monument of Cararra statuary marble, surmounted by a life-sized statue of a uniformed soldier and bearing the names, regiment, date of death, and company to which 326 of the soldiers belonged, was erected on the court house square, at a cost of \$5,600, and dedicated on June 10, 1869. (208)

In 1859, Mr. Lincoln stated to Sylvester Strong of Atlanta that Mr. Douglas would be a Presidential candidate on the Democratic ticket in 1860, and added: 'I know the constitution and temperament of Judge Douglas and if he should be nominated and defeated, he will not live a year.' These words were absolutely prophetic. (226)

On April 25, 1861, Mr. Douglas spoke in Springfield and the following day, en route to Chicago, the train stopped in Lincoln. A large crowd had gathered at the station and Douglas was discovered standing on the platform. Calls were made for a speech, and Douglas waved his hand in a dramatic manner and amid profound silence, briefly said: "Fellow citizens: I have no time to make a speech, the cars won't wait. It is not necessary, ~~as~~ I believe, for I take it that you are all a unit for the union. I have done my best to preserve peace, but now that war is upon us, the Government must be maintained at all hazards." Here the train moved away, and amid the unanimous shouts of the people, Douglas disappeared in the distance. That night he spoke ~~to~~ ~~at~~ 10,000 people (at the Wigwam-) in Chicago, and his speech, sent far and wide, was the rallying cry for enlistment. This speech was his last public utterance, for at its close, he returned to his rooms at the Tremont House, in Chicago, was taken sick, and never left his bed until death had overtaken him. (170)

On the morning of May 3, 1865, the funeral car bearing the body of Mr. Lincoln from Washington to Springfield reached Atlanta at 6 A.M., where a large number had assembled. At 7 A.M., the train reached Lincoln. A dispatch from Lincoln to the Chicago Tribune, of date May 3, 1865, says: "This town was named for Abraham Lincoln by some personal friends before he was known to fame. The depot was appropriately draped in mourning, and ladies dressed in white, trimmed in black, sang a requiem, as the train passed under a handsomely constructed arch, on each column of which was a portrait of the deceased President. The arch bore the motto: 'With malice ~~to~~ none, with charity for all' The national colors were prominently displayed, and a profusion of evergreens with black and white drapings, completed the artistic decorations". (230)

Mr. Lincoln was Logan County's surveyor, attorney, friend of its early settlers, helped to organize its affairs, and was identified with many events there. (212) To a reporter of a Chicago newspaper in July, 1864, Mr. Lincoln said: "I feel a presentiment that I shall not outlast the war. When it is over, my work will be done." This prophetic utterance found its fulfillment in his assassination, April 15, 1865. Nowhere in America were the people more greatly shocked over this tragedy than in Logan County. (230)

"This is the history of our great Lincoln as it relates to the history of Logan County. Out of the eternal he came, spirit of the unpurpled people, and to the eternal he returned, he was safe, sane, and self-controlled. Not too radical, neither too conservative, he was endowed with a vision comprehending every phase of human life, an ability to manage, without mistake, complications most intricate and a faith sufficiently sublime to remove mountains. Untouched by dogma, child of the elemental, a giant sprung from the loins of the common people and in touch with every gradation of their daily life, he saved the nation, gave liberty to a people and his name will ever live in every heart-beat of the human race--Abraham Lincoln." (231)

A commission of the Synods of Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa, after considerable debate, decided on December 2, 1864, to establish in Lincoln, for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, an institution of learning to be known as 'Lincoln University' not in honor of the town, but in honor of Abraham Lincoln, the name being suggested by Rev. J. H. Hughey and heartily seconded in an enthusiastic address by Judge Campbell. (441)

The next move was to secure a charter. The charter secured is one of the most valuable assets of Lincoln College. It has been stated by educational experts that no other college in the United States possesses so valuable a franchise. (441). Ten acres of land were donated by Messrs Latham, Wyatt and Gillett, and over \$30,000 was raised locally as a bonus to secure this institution. (440) Considering the fact that Lincoln then was a town of only about 3,000 inhabitants, that money was then not so easily secured, that the Civil war was just drawing to a close and progress and industry at a standstill, and that the people had been contributing of their substance in aid of the war, the raising of such a sum by private subscription at that time for educational purposes, was quite remarkable. (440)

Ground was first broken for the new building, February 12, 1865, on the anniversary of President Lincoln's birth, and the corner stone was laid Sept. 14, 1865, with appropriate ceremonies. (442)

In 1903, Lincoln University became affiliated with the Decatur College and Industrial School, of Decatur, Ill., as part of The James Millikin University, and its name was changed to Lincoln College of The James Millikin University. ~~xx~~ (443) In the Illinois educational system it ranks as a Junior College to the larger universities.

Under the leadership of the President, Dr. Wm. D. Copeland, and an able staff of instructors, and a large attendance of two year students, this institution occupies an important place in the affairs of Lincoln, and the State of Illinois. Under its sponsorship, a fine Lincoln Birthday program will be broadcast from Lincoln on Feb. 12, 1938, from coast to coast, as per enclosed newspaper clippings.

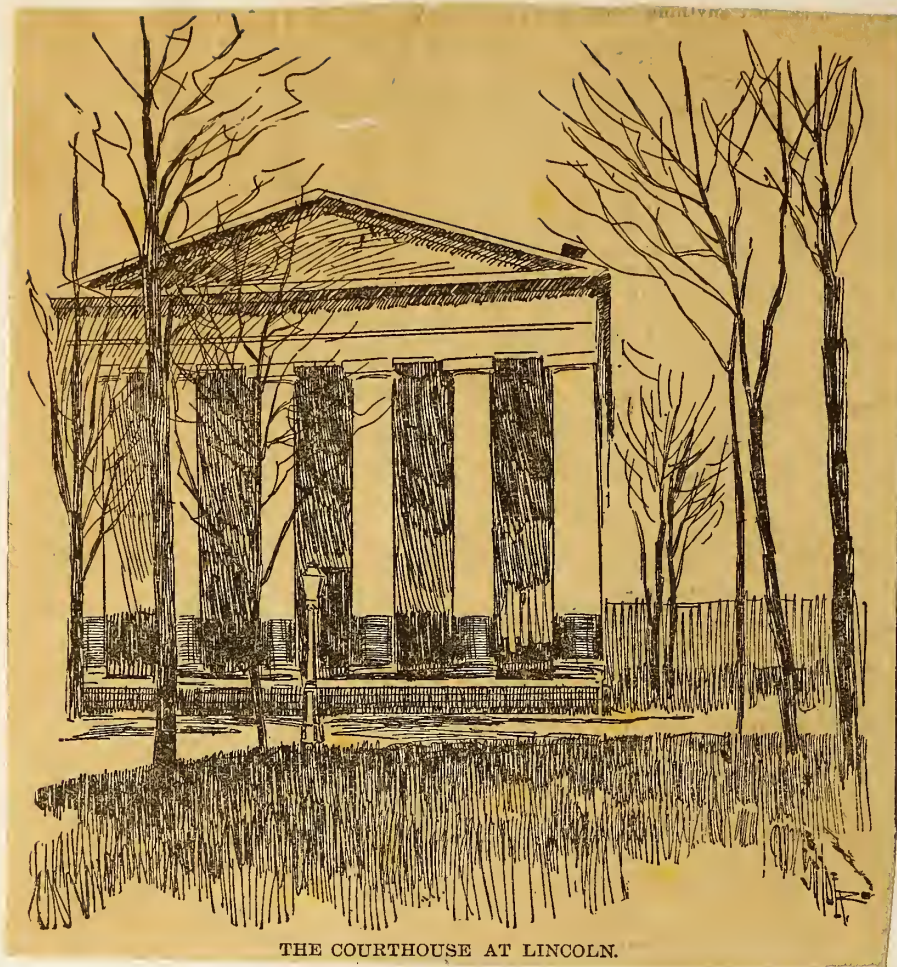
The City of Lincoln now contains over 13,000 population, four railroad routes, three State highways, a State School and Colony for mental defectives, factories, coal mine, etc, and is situated in the geographical center of the State, in the richest agricultural section of Illinois. Drilling for oil is now in progress in Logan County, with good prospects for success.

**TOWN NAMED "LINCOLN"
WHILE HE WAS LAWYER**

LINCOLN, Ill., Feb. 12 (P).—Twenty-four American cities and towns bear the name of Lincoln, but only one—Lincoln, Ill.—received its name during the lifetime of the emancipator and had the honor of being christened—with the cutting of a watermelon—by Lincoln himself.

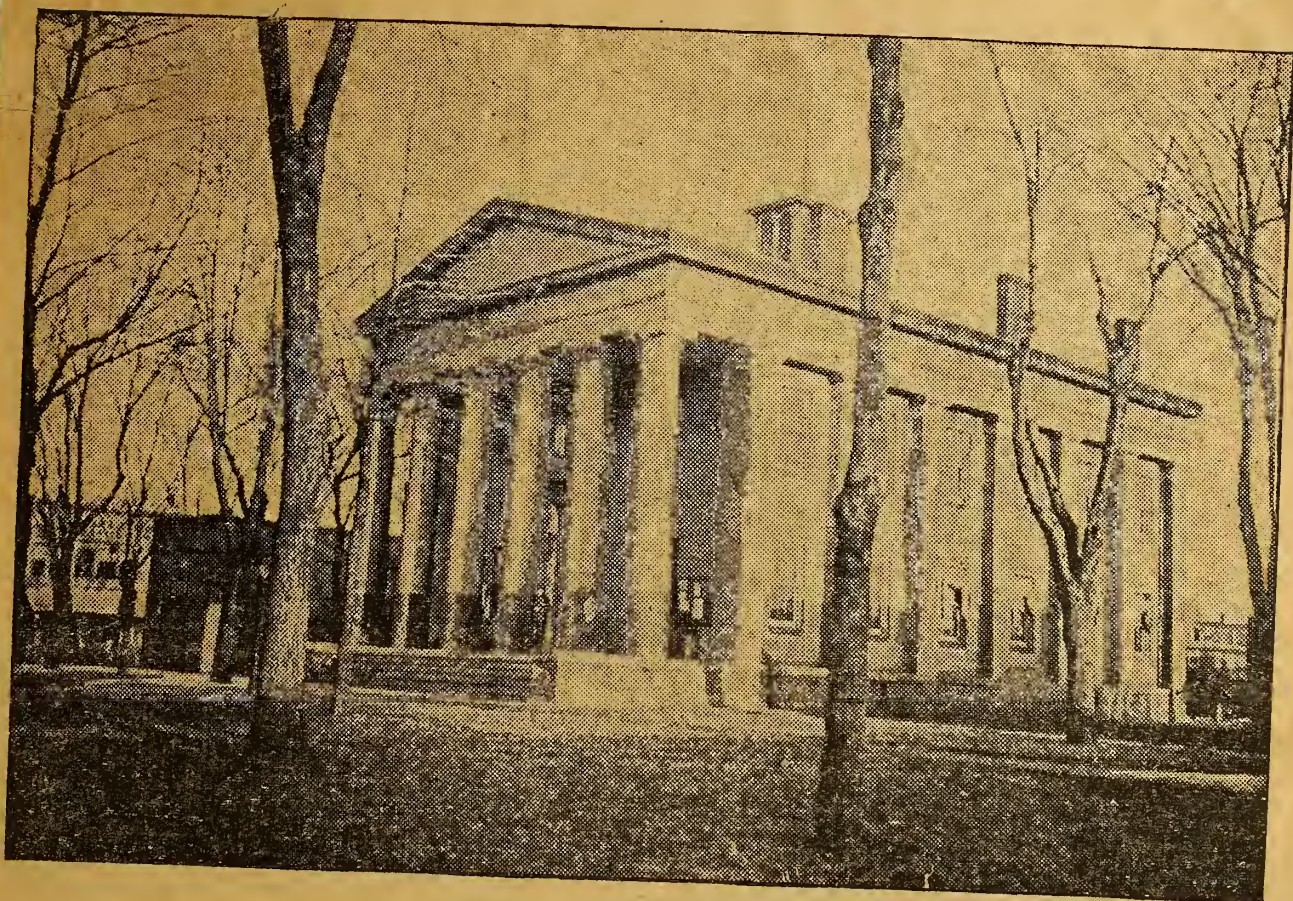
"All right boys, go ahead, but I think you're making a mistake. Nothing named Lincoln, so far as I know, ever amounted to much."

That was Lincoln's rejoinder to the proposal of three of his friends to give the name of Lincoln to this newly laid out town in Central Illinois. The date was 1853 and Lincoln was an obscure rural lawyer.



THE COURTHOUSE AT LINCOLN.

HISTORIC COURTHOUSE TO GO.



Special Correspondence of The Inter Ocean.

LINCOLN, Ill., Feb. 13.—A new \$150,000 courthouse is to be built in Logan county. In order that the county will not be put in debt by this enterprise, \$50,000 per year will be added to the taxes for the next three years, and the building paid for when completed. This ends a long fight in which the city has advocated a new building and the county has opposed it. Strangers who have visited Lincoln for years past have commented on the relic of bygone days which stood in the heart of the city. Its passing marks the close of an epoch which began when Abraham Lincoln, as attorney for the founders of the city, obtained a charter for the new town. J. D. Gillett, Virgil Hichkok, and Robert Latham owned the town site, and named it for their friend Lincoln. He was given a lot opposite the courthouse as his fee, and this was held in his family until a few years ago.

no date

"OLD ABE" MEMORIES

Lincoln's Connection with the Extinct Village of Postville.

SOME INTERESTING SCENES

Portrait That Was Carried by the Atlanta "Wide Awakes."

When Lincoln Told Stories David Davis Let Lawyers Talk to a Deaf Bench.

Lincoln, Ill., Jan. 9.—Special Correspondence.—Although the village of Postville is no longer given a place on our maps, but was absorbed by her more vigorous neighbor and became a part of the City of Lincoln over thirty years ago, yet the first courthouse erected in Logan County is still standing on

Postville hill, where it was erected in 1840. This building, a sketch of which is given in this column, is one which is always pointed out as being one with whose history Abraham Lincoln is closely associated, as when he was an attorney he always attended the sessions of court held within its walls. The old house has been used for a dwelling ever since the removal of the county seat to Mount Pulaski, in 1848, but yet the individuality of the man was so great that when a new town was founded, five years later, it was called Lincoln in his honor.

When the county seat was at Mount Pulaski, Mr. Lincoln continued his visits to the Logan County court, and it was during his last visit there, in 1855, that he recognized the fact that his eyesight was beginning to fail with the strain of years. He stopped at the house of Thomas Lushbough, who had been his next-door neighbor at Springfield, and his roommate was John T. Stuart, another Springfield attorney. After they would retire for the night it was Mr. Lincoln's habit to draw the stand table up to the side of the bed, light the lamp, and then prop himself up on his pillow, where he would read the statutes of the state and study his law books as long as he could remain awake. Then again in the morning he would resume his reading as soon as he awakened. One night while reading thus he seemed to notice that something was wrong, and, turning to his bedfellow, he said: "Stuart, do you notice how my eyes are failing? See how I am pushing my book away from me."

This was during the last term of court held at the Mount, for before the next term of court the county seat had been removed to the town named in Mr. Lincoln's honor, and which had already outstripped its rivals in the county. There a new courthouse had been built similar to the one whose picture appears below. In that building Mr. Lincoln appeared to plead, as he had in years before in the one on Postville Hill two miles away. The building, however, did not stand long, for it was destroyed by fire April 14, 1857. A new one, a picture of which is given here, stood on the same foundations before that year was ended, in which Mr. Lincoln's fast friend, David Davis, occupied the bench during many terms of court.

Mr. Lincoln continued his visits to the City of Lincoln up to the time of his nomination for the Presidency, and by his story telling always kept his friends in good humor. Of Judge Davis it is told that his laughter could be heard for the distance of two blocks away from the old Eagle Hotel when "Honest Abe" told stories to the "boys" at night.

The Judge's seat was high above the common people, too high, Judge Davis insisted.

On one occasion when a case was being tried in which Lincoln was not interested he sat with the other members of the bar about a long walnut table just below the bar of justice, telling them anecdotes. The titter of laughter from the lawyers and some noise among the spectators annoyed Judge Davis,

Mass. 1862

him to talk of Lincoln is to speak with tear-bedimmed eyes.

A historic painting is one by C. Merck of Chicago, which hangs in the house of Mr. Nathaniel B. Pegram. Painted in July of 1860 from a sitting made in Springfield for Mr. Merck in the second month after Mr. Lincoln's nomination for the Presidency, the picture was prominently displayed throughout that campaign. In 1862 the home of Colonel R. M. Hough was thrown open to the sanitary commission and a fair conducted there for its benefit. This painting was one of the features of the display, and, after being sold several times and donated back to the fair, it was finally purchased by Colonel Hough himself, he paying \$62.50 for it. It followed the Colonel through his checkered career, until a short time before his death, when he placed it in the hands of its present owner.

Another highly prized picture of Mr. Lincoln is the one owned by ex-Circuit Clerk Koehnle. It also dates from the campaign of 1860, at which time it was painted for the "Wide Awakes" of this city by Reuben Neal. Its style is a painting in imitation of steel-engraving, and the artist was well acquainted with Mr. Lincoln. This acquaintance gave him a familiarity with the face of the subject, which enabled him to make a likeness which has been pronounced among the best of the period. Many other pictures of Lin-

coln were painted by Mr. Neal, with the assistance of his nephew, Reuben Neal Lawrence, during the campaign, but of these there is but one in existence now and it is the one carried by the Atlanta "Wide Awakes," during the exciting rallies of 1869. This was the second company of "Wide Awakes," organized in Illinois, that of Ellsworth being its predecessor, and, on account of its banner bearing the likeness of both candidates, it was placed at the head of the parade at the monster rally at Springfield, which concluded that memorable campaign. Besides painting its banner, young

Lawrence was the captain of the company, and when at its head carried the sword which was worn by Anthony Wayne at Ticonderoga. After the election of Mr. Lincoln he took the picture from its stretcher and carefully preserved it, while the picture belonging to the Lincoln company of "Wide Awakes" was preserved by its bearers, and for twelve years hung in the courthouse here.

W. O. PAISLEY.

No title



LINCOLN CHRISTENS HIS CITY

WITH THE COMING OF THE CHICAGO TO ST. LOUIS RAILROAD THROUGH LOGAN COUNTY, CAME THE CREATION OF A TOWN ON THAT LINE TO BE KNOWN AS LINCOLN. THREE MEN, VIRGIL HICKOX, A DIRECTOR OF THE RAILROAD FROM SPRINGFIELD, ALONG WITH ROBERT B. LATHAM AND JOHN D. GILLET OF LOGAN COUNTY BECAME PROPRIETORS OF THE NEW TOWN WHICH THEY SUBSEQUENTLY NAMED LINCOLN, IN HONOR OF THEIR FRIEND AND LAWYER, ABRAHAM LINCOLN OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS. LATHAM LATER REPORTED THAT LINCOLN REPLIED WHEN TOLD OF THE NAMING THAT, "YOU'D BETTER NOT DO THAT, FOR I NEVER KNEW ANYTHING NAMED LINCOLN THAT AMOUNTED TO MUCH."

THE FIRST PUBLIC SALE OF LOTS IN LINCOLN OCCURRED

AUGUST 27, 1853. TRACKS FOR THE NEW RAILROAD WERE ONLY RECENTLY LAID AND THEY ALONG WITH A WORKMAN'S SHACK FOR THE WORKMEN WERE THE ONLY OUTWARD SIGNS OF THE NEW COMMUNITY.

IN THE SCENE DEPICTED HERE, LINCOLN IS SHOWN WITH THE TOWN PROPRIETORS AND A YOUNG BOY NAMED STEVENS WHOSE ACCOUNT OF THE CHRISTENING SCENE IS MOST OFTEN QUOTED. LINCOLN USED A TIN CUP TO SPILL THE JUICE OF A WATERMELON UPON THE GROUND TO CHRISTEN THE ONLY TOWN NAMED IN HIS HONOR BEFORE HE BECAME A NATIONAL FIGURE.

THIS ORIGINAL WORK BY LLOYD OSTENDORF WAS SPONSORED BY THE LINCOLN SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION IN COOPERATION WITH THE LOGAN COUNTY ABRAHAM LINCOLN HERITAGE FOUNDATION.

VISIT MR. LINCOLN'S LOGAN COUNTY

LOGAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS



Lincoln College, named for Mr. Lincoln on his last living birthday, February 12, 1865, with his full knowledge and consent.



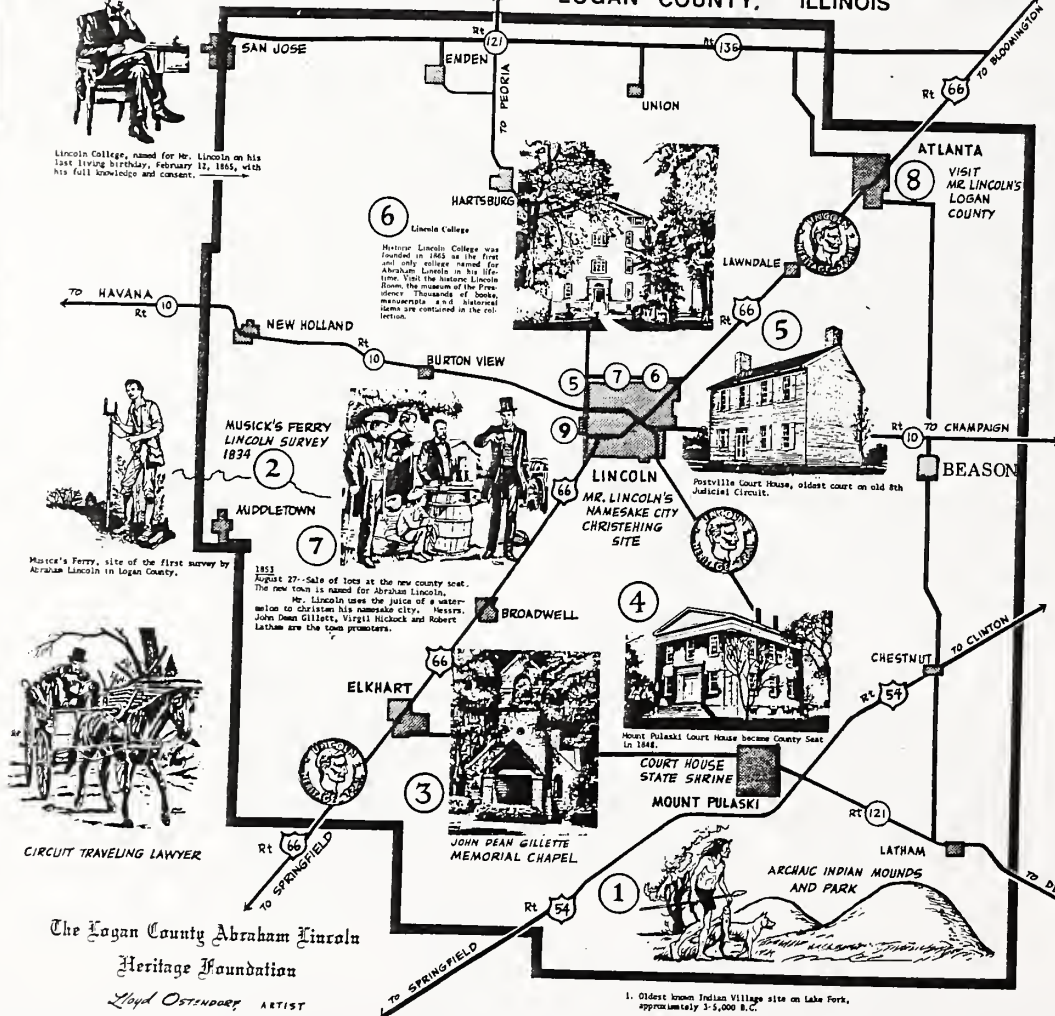
WELCOME TO LOGAN COUNTY



on the
Heritage Trail

THE LINCOLN LOGAN CIRCUIT

- 1 ARCHAIC INDIAN MOUNDS AND PARK
- 2 MUSICK'S FERRY—LINCOLN SURVEY
- 3 JOHN DEAN GILLETTE MEMORIAL CHAPEL
- 4 MOUNT PULASKI COURT HOUSE—STATE SHRINE
- 5 POSTVILLE COURT HOUSE—STATE SHRINE
- 6 LINCOLN, THE NAMESAKE COLLEGE
- 7 MR. LINCOLN'S NAMESAKE CITY CHRISTENING SITE
- 8 VISIT MR. LINCOLN'S LOGAN COUNTY
- 9 ABE LINCOLN GALLERY LINCOLN SAVINGS & LOAN



The Logan County Abraham Lincoln
Heritage Foundation
Lloyd Ostendorf, ARTIST

1. Oldest known Indian Village site on Lake Fort,
approximately 3-5,000 B.C.

Only City on Earth Named in Honor of Lincoln Before His Death Has Quiet Observance

(State Register Special Service.)

Lincoln, Ill., Feb. 12.—While the nation observed the birthday of Abraham Lincoln today, the day has especial significance in Lincoln, Ill., for it was here that many of the early struggles of the martyred president were recorded.

Springfield and Central Illinois have many recollections of Abraham Lincoln, but this city is peculiarly associated with his earlier life. Logan county knew Lincoln before he ever achieved greatness.

Abraham Lincoln first came to Logan county as a struggling surveyor. He platted the town of Albany, long since forgotten, on the banks of Salt Creek at Rocky Ford. Later he practiced law in the old Postville court house in what is now West Lincoln, riding the circuit in an old buck-board, and trying cases before Judges Davis and Treat.

For many years the only real estate property owned by Lincoln was two lots now located within less than 100 feet of the court house, and owned by D. H. Harts, president of the Lincoln Commercial club. Lincoln, in the legislature, made possible the bill creating Logan county out of part of the then Sangamon County, and later he gave consent to the founders of the town of Lincoln to name the new county seat after himself. Lincoln, Illinois, is the only Lincoln in the country named for Abraham Lincoln before he achieved fame, and so named with his knowledge and consent.

There was no formal observance of the day today. The offices in the court house were closed, and banks and other public offices were also closed.



LINCOLN, ILL.

DRAWER 12A

ILLINOIS TOWNS

